Daily Report

Latin America

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Peru Returns to Andean Pact, To Resume Commitments

PA0504033994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2158 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Caracas, 4 Apr (EFE)—Today, Peru officially presented its request to return to the Andean Pact—a request that was accepted—and said it will "fully resume all of its commitments" on macroeconomic issues and joint commercial negotiations that bind the five members of the Cartagena Agreement. Peru's return was approved at the 70th period of sessions of the Cartagena Agreement Commission, which was inaugurated in Caracas today.

The Peruvian delegation presented its request to the Bolivian, Colombian, Ecuadoran, and Venezuelan commissions. The proposal, which included the terms for Peru's return to the Andean Pact after nearly two years of absence, was approved unanimously. Peru was authorized to continue as an observer in the regional organization's internal negotiations to establish a common custom duties tariff, which is now being discussed by the remaining members of the Andean Pact.

The Cartagena Agreement Commission's Decree No. 353 declared that now that Peru has returned to its full commitments within the Andean Pact it will be allowed to start incorporating products into the free trade zone—products to be included under a 31 December 1994 customs tariff of 0-5 percent. Likewise, bilateral agreements on commercial integration signed by Peru with the rest of the Andean Pact member-states will continue to be valid until all of the products are gradually and concurrently incorporated into the Andean Pact system. According to the commission's statement, Peru's reentry into the organization highlights the need for Andean Pact countries to reinforce their original purpose of providing a mechanism to expedite the process of bilateral integration.

Foreign Trade Institute Minister Albert Poletto said Peru's return to the Andean Pact "marked an important milestone in the Cartagena Agreement." Poletto stressed that the establishment of a common customs tariff is an important pending matter that must be resolved by the Andean Pact at the Cartagena Agreement Commission meeting being held in Caracas. Poletto added that another issue that requires agreement by the Andean partners is the need to increase the presence of the Andean Pact in the international trade sector.

Gaviria Views Possibility of Cuba Rejoining OAS

PA0404005594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2224 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 3 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Cesar Gaviria, recently elected OAS secretary general, has said he advocates a dialogue with the Cuban Government, but he rejected the possibility that Cuba could rejoin this hemispheric organization.

He added that the OAS "has always thought" that the reintegration of Cuba to the organization "is desirable."

"However, most countries believe that given the current circumstances, it is impossible," he pointed out.

In an interview published today by EL ESPECTADOR newspaper, the Colombian president said, "it is not up to me to determine the scope of the changes," but "I hope that within a few years, this change will be possible."

Gaviria recalled that the so-called Group of Three—Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela—has always favored holding talks with Cuba to seek ways to implement reforms in Cuba. However, Gaviria underscored, "there are countries that are very skeptical about conducting such talks; nevertheless, we have always advocated them."

Gaviria Describes Goals for OAS

PA0204181494 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Mar 94 p 6A

[Interview with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria by Maria Teresa Ronderos and Francisco Celis; place and date not given]

[Text] The president was beaming. "It is not a matter of good luck," he laughed. "When things are done right, they come out right." Gaviria believes that Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin and the rest of the team that consolidated his election as the new OAS secretary general did things very well. Gaviria announced that he will not get involved in national politics in the next few years and added: "More than one person will be happy about that."

He appears confused when told what many people in the streets are saying, that he was put in the position by the United States. But he defends himself without hesitation and says firmly that he would not have been elected if the international community had not viewed Colombia as a very independent country. This is what he plans to do from his post at the OAS.

[EL TIEMPO] Why did you want to head the OAS, an institution in crisis?

[Gaviria] Late last year, some presidents and foreign ministers suggested that I should submit my name for the position. It looked like an interesting challenge. Although Joao Baena did a good job at the OAS and the organization has modernized itself in the past few years, nearly all international organizations lag behind in terms of the tremendous changes that have taken place and the speed with which the agenda has shifted. For those reasons, I thought I could do something worthwhile after I complete my term.

[EL TIEMPO] Aren't you interested in resting? Isn't this decision like getting off one bucking bronco to get on another?

[Gaviria] Yes. I would say it is a coincidence—not a very happy one—that I will have to leave one position and assume another without respite. But the situation was not under my control. I have not set the date, but I will have to assume office as OAS secretary general a few weeks after the end of my administration, maybe early in September.

[EL TIEMPO] What will have to change to make the OAS a true instrument of integration and to overcome the rhetoric that has gone on for the last 30 years?

[Gaviria] First, I perceive a great desire on the continent for the OAS to play a more important role in economic issues and in the integration processes of various countries. There is an American ideal to create a great free trade zone. I hope to make some progress along those lines in the next few years. Second, there is a general idea that the OAS must be more prepared and equipped to cope with the problems of democracy on the continent, problems such as ruptures and difficulties. It must also encourage democracy. Third, we are convinced that much more has to be done regarding human rights, not only studying specific cases but stimulating compliance with these rights.

[EL TIEMPO] Do these things depend on your leadership or on a change in the institution?

[Gaviria] I do not think it depends on my leadership. It truly depends on our capacity for political willingness and our ability to express it through institutional change, something that was not always possible in the world. Sometimes the willingness is there but no way is found to make changes or to use the means at our disposal, or maybe the adequate instruments are not found. I hope we will succeed.

[EL TIEMPO] Which case requires the most urgent attention: Cuba, Haiti, or Peru? Which is the most difficult?

[Gaviria] I think the Peruvian problem is a thing of the past following the Democratic Constituent Congress. I do not think Peru is a case at all anymore, nor do I think Cuba is on the organization's immediate agenda. Haiti, however, is on that agenda. Other than stating—as I have several times before—that we must continue to work to reestablish democracy in Haiti and to reinstall President Aristide, I have nothing new to add, except that I will have to study the situation carefully when I take office. There are still a few months to go yet, and I have no way of foreseeing what additional proposals or solutions could be adopted.

[EL TIEMPO] Among the most recent Colombian presidents, you have been one of the most open toward Cuba. You built bridges for them; you reestablished diplomatic relations; you met Fidel Castro; and now there is talk of selling oil to Cuba. Does this mean it will be easier for you to bring Cuba back into the Inter-American system?

[Gaviria] Nations all across the continent believe that if there is political and economic change in Cuba, approved, of course, by the organization, we could try to move Cuba back into the inter-American system. There is no way to assess the degree of such changes or the country's willingness to make them happen. If changes are made, it would be desirable to bring Cuba back into the system.

[EL TIEMPO] How will you maintain and guarantee your neutrality in conflicts involving Colombia?

[Gaviria] As soon as I take my oath, I will be the secretary general of the OAS. My opinion as the president of Colombia should have no bearing on my performance as secretary general. I will become the interpreter of the organization's mandates.

[EL TIEMPO] Trade, poverty, the environment, and drug trafficking are some issues on the continent's agenda. What are the priorities?

[Gaviria] I think the priorities are trade, the defense and conservation of democracy, human rights, the environment, and poverty. In the next few years we will have to work hard and see what happens. We need institutional reforms and new instruments. We must study everything carefully and see how to handle each specific situation.

[EL TIEMPO] Rumor has it that you were put in this position by the gringos. Niehaus said that after losing. How will you demonstrate your independence?

[Gaviria] I have no reason to demonstrate my independence. Colombia's foreign policy over the last few years should remove any doubt about the Colombian president's independence. Contrary to what one may expect to result from that policy, many countries backed Colombia because of its international policies and its independence. Colombia's success is due to the great work by Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin and the ministry itself in spreading our message. It was not Colombia's message but the message of the nations that accompanied Colombia. My candidacy was successful because of the way Colombia presented its arguments and convinced 20 countries to support it. The United States publicly expressed its support for Colombia early in the race and gave us its vote. I don't think it did anything more than that.

[EL TIEMPO] Will you remain on the sidelines of national politics over the next five years?

[Gaviria] Without any doubt whatsoever.

[EL TIEMPO] Is there anyone who is particularly happy because of this decision?

[Gaviria] More than one person will be happy about that. Of course, I am going to be on the sidelines of Colombian politics. There is no possibility whatsoever that I will be able to participate at any level.

[EL TIEMPO] Mr. President, with respect to the issue of drug trafficking, it is being said that Colombia has no autonomy and that is agrees with what the United States believes must be done with the drug cartels.

[Gaviria] I strongly disagree with that assessment. Colombia's policy on drug trafficking has been independent and in agreement with our convictions and the country's fundamental interests, and we have been able register a high degree of international cooperation. Keep in mind that during the past few years we outlined a uniquely Colombian policy. Colombia eliminated extradition, we undertook the surrender program, and we decided to strengthen the justice system. In the beginning, the international community viewed these policies with skepticism, and yet, these policies proved to be successful and effective. I would like to know where you got the idea that these policies were imposed by the Americans. None of these policies...

[EL TIEMPO] I was referring to recent statements and positions regarding the Cali Cartel, and comparing them with what the United States believes must be done.

[Gaviria] Statements from whom?

[EL TIEMPO] For example, the U.S. drug czar and the attorney general.

[Gaviria] We must understand that judicial cooperation is a very difficult process and that the two countries' judicial systems are different. We got into instituting some programs, and also into a somewhat disturbing public discussion in an effort to determine whether we could cooperate. It is logical that differences should arise. The U.S. Justice Department has significant differences with the Prosecutor General's Office. In the past, the executive branch also had differences of opinion, but I believe we are overcoming these now. Nevertheless, we cannot be surprised by this. The president is usually very careful when he issues an opinion with regard to U.S. drug trafficking policies. However, the Prosecutor General's Office does not always react in the same manner. If this happens here, then we must expect to receive criticism from over there.

[EL TIEMPO] In light of your experience in dealing with drug trafficking, what do you think the struggle against this problem will be like within the OAS?

[Gaviria] I believe that for now the OAS has a very narrow program which basically focuses on prevention and crop substitution. I also believe that no one has proposed going any further; at least, I do not see any worthwhile proposals being evaluated at this time.

[EL TIEMPO] How will Colombia benefit from your being in the OAS?

[Gaviria] I believe my election already represents something positive, because it represents a recognition of the country's international policies. I also believe it is going to be positive in the future. If Latin America progresses, the integration process develops, and cooperation increases, then Colombia will benefit just as all the other countries will benefit.

[EL TIEMPO] It has been said that you were born under a very auspicious star, and, under such a star, we are going to end up as world soccer champions. What do you think about the team?

[Gaviria] I do indeed believe I am often considered a very lucky person. Of course, that is a somewhat fatalistic explanation. No, it is not a matter of good luck. When things are done right, they come out right. Obviously, those things that started out on the wrong foot turned out badly. Public opinion and the media pointed out these mistakes. I believe it is time the country learns that things can go right and that it is not simply a matter of good luck. No. I believe we Colombians are doing things right in areas such as the economy, politics, institutional change, the struggle against drug trafficking, and sports. In fact, things cannot go wrong all of the time.

Cuba

Robaina Prefers Latin American Investment

PA0504022494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0004 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina began his official visit to Uruguay by meeting with President Luis Alberto Lacalle in Montevideo. Robaina's agenda in Uruguay includes meetings with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu, political leaders, bankers, and businessmen.

In initial statements to the media in Montevideo, Foreign Minister Robaina said he told President Lacalle of Cuba's efforts to spur economic openness. The Cuban foreign minister reaffirmed that Cuba prefers investments from Latin American countries but welcomes investments from any country. According to Roberto Robaina, foreign investors find tourism, oil, nickel, citrus, and general agriculture the most attractive areas for investment.

Foreign Minister Robaina will conclude his official visit to Uruguay on 6 April, when he will travel to Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, and Paraguay. The visit to Paraguay is unofficial because Cuba does not have diplomatic relations with that country.

Kicks Off South American Tour

PA0404134294 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said in Havana that the tour he begins today through five South American countries will allow Cuba to advocate [word indistinct] in the area, and for the coming Ibero-American Summit to be held in Cartagena, Colombia. During a news conference at Havana's Jose Martin Airport, Robaina said Latin America and the Caribbean constitute priorities for Cuban foreign policy. Asked about the possibility of Cuba's eventual reintegration into the OAS, Robaina noted that the country awaits the OAS decision on this because, he emphasized, we cannot knock on the door of a place from which we were arbitrarily removed.

Robaina attributed underhanded intentions to the White House decision to exclude Cuba from the so-called Americas Summit convened by President William Clinton. Robaina's tour will include Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, and Paraguay.

Departs for Uruguay

FL0404130794 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] On 3 April, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina departed for Uruguay, the first stop of a tour through five South American countries, which will conclude on 19 April. In statements to the press at Jose Marti International Airport, Robaina said he will discuss with the authorities of the countries he will visit the two summits scheduled for this year: the Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and the one in Miami convened by U.S. President William Clinton, in which Cuba will not be participating.

Robaina described his visit to Paraguay, with which Cuba has no diplomatic relations, as semiofficial, and said it will be useful to expand mutual understanding. Foreign Minister Robaina reiterated his wish for Cesar Gaviria's success as head of the OAS, a post to which he was recently elected.

Arrives in Uruguay

FL0404135594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1225 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with correspondent Roberto Cavada, who is with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina on his tour of South America, by reporter Maria Elena Alonso from Montevideo, Uruguay—live]

[Text] [Alonso] We know you have been flying for several hours now, that you have made several stops, and that there are many important things to be said. We are going to turn the time over to you because we know you have very little time to explain all this to our listeners.

[Cavada] Thank you. We are transmitting live from Montevideo for the Cuban people. It is raining and cloudy here. We arrived in Montevideo just two minutes ago. Foreign Minister Robaina was greeted at the airport by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu.

The work of this tour began last night during all the obligatory technical intermediate stops that Robaina and his delegation made. In Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and Argentina, Roberto Robaina met with the respective Cuban ambassadors of those countries. There was contact with the national press. Foreign Minister Robaina was interviewed by the NACIONAL newspaper of Caracas and by Channel 11 of Bogota.

Another significant point was his conversation with Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio in Bogota with whom, according to official sources of the Cuban delegation, he discussed bilateral relations and the speculation by the EL TIEMPO newspaper.

I reiterate, Cuban Foreign Minister Robaina has arrived in Montevideo. The Cuban delegation was greeted at the airport by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu.

We have confirmed that Robaina will be meeting with Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle within the next few hours.

Begins Talks in Uruguay

FL0504020694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Special report from Montevideo by correspondent Roberto Cavada—live or recorded]

[Text] At the end of the first talks held this Monday afternoon with Uruguayan Central Bank Director Enrique Braga, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said Uruguay is willing to not freeze the Cuban debt to Uruguay and to look for solutions favorable to both countries. On this matter, the Cuban foreign minister told this station the following:

[Begin Robaina recording] I think the main objective is not to submit a concrete proposal on how or with what to pay the foreign debt. Cuba does not have what is in fact needed to pay the debt as far as money is concerned, but we are surely willing to try to find a solution and to sit at a negotiating table to discuss all possibilities. We can establish what Cuba needs and the investment possibilities for Uruguay. Some Cuban products could be useful to Uruguay, so these products can contribute to solving this problem.

The important thing is that a Cuban delegation headed by the Cuban Central Bank president will arrive here soon, and they have the decision-making power to choose the options to solve this debt problem. [end recording]

The Cuban foreign minister met previously with Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle. They exchanged ideas on the forthcoming Ibero-American Summit to be held in Colombia, transformations in the economic area taking place in Cuba, and preparations for the emigre conference that will take place by the end of this month, among other subjects.

Robaina's agenda, which is certainly tight, included a meeting with Liber Seregni, president of the Broad Front; an interesting meeting with the Uruguayan Congress foreign relations committee, at which the Cuban foreign minister explained the true situation in Cuba; a meeting with Cuban residents in Uruguay; and another meeting with Uruguayan intellectuals.

According to a Cuban delegation spokesman, Tuesday's agenda contemplates the beginning of talks at the Foreign Ministry level, a meeting with his Uruguayan counterpart Sergio Abreu, contacts with several television networks from Montevideo and the most important national newspapers, like EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO.

Havana Notes Korean Military Mobilizations

FL0404205594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Commentary by Eduardo Dimas]

[Text] For a few months now, we have been receiving information on the United States' attempt to force the DPRK to allow inspections of their nuclear facilities under the pretext that this country is manufacturing or is currently in possession of atomic weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency has already checked those facilities on two separate occasions. Nevertheless, the U.S. Government continues to insist.

Recently, the UN Security Council asked North Korea to authorize inspections, which that government later rejected. The UN Security Council's petition was not mandatory. That same day, President William Clinton threatened to isolate the DPRK internationally if they persist in that position.

At the same time, the United States began sending Patriot missiles to South Korean territory and placed U.S. troops stationed on the peninsula on alert. The South Korean defense minister made militant statements in an obvious attempt to intensify the situation. The North Korean Government also mobilized its forces to reject any aggression. A state of war has been created, which does not benefit anyone in the world, especially the more powerful Asian countries like China and Japan, or other countries known to possess nuclear weapons, like India and Pakistan.

This situation has created a difference of opinion among regional analysts. For some, this is no more than a diplomatic arm-wrestling match, a contest for a more favorable position at the negotiating table. Others believe a real threat of war exists between the two Koreas, the consequences of which would be unpredictable for the region and for the world as a whole.

The moderate positions of China and Russia, who on repeated occasions have requested a continuation of negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang, have reduced the possibility of a harsher stance toward North Korea by the Security Council, in accordance, as usual, with Yankee wishes.

In any case, for those who believe that in these times, war is impossible because there is a new government in the United States, I would like to read this paragraph from the book, "Mandate for Change," a compilation by the Institute for Progressive Policy affiliated with the Council for Democratic Leadership, which is to be the leading book of the Clinton administration.

It reads: The next key challenge for collective security in the new period will be to give the United Nations the power to use preventive diplomacy. It goes on to emphasize: Of course, the United States should never renounce its prerogative to use unilateral force when its vital interests are threatened.

Until now, what the United States calls UN preventive diplomacy—in other words, to do as it pleases—has failed in the case of Korea. Therefore, I ask myself: Can one dismiss the possibility of a unilateral action by the United States? I do not think so.

Chilean Businessmen Explore Import-Export Deals

FL0504021194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by Marta Moreno]

[Text] A delegation of 18 Chilean businessmen is visiting our country to establish possible trade deals with Cuba in divers areas of the economy. The meeting between these Chilean businessmen and representatives of various Cuban institutions was held in the (Tanganada) Hall of the Hotel Nacional. This meeting is sponsored by Conaf [expansion unknown] Inc. During the meeting, the Chilean businessmen were briefed on legal requirements, the banking system, personnel contracting, taxes, business facilities in general, and guarantees provided by Cuba to foreign businessmen. They were also briefed on the operation of mixed companies and the transactions needed to establish firms in the country.

[Begin unidentified Chilean businessman recording] I am essentially an exporter of medicines to Cuba. At the same time, I am trying to import some medicines from Cuba to Chile, namely vaccines. Right now, we are in the process of registering Cuban products in Chile, especially the vaccine against meningococcal meningitis, and I believe this will be approved within a short period of time. [end recording]

In the next few days, the Chilean businessmen will contact national organizations and companies in a quest for more information. In Cuba, there are more than 500 representative offices, which have invested in different areas of the economy, investments that are suitable for Cuba and the foreign investor.

Mitsubishi Confirms Investments in Country

FL0504021894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The presence of the Japanese Mitsubishi Company in Cuba has been confirmed by the presentation and display of its automobile products. The Mitsubishi Company has been announced as the first Japanese company to establish a long-range business deal in Cuba. Present in that investment also is the Sumitomo Trading Corporation [name given in English], one of the largest automobile companies in Japan. Mitsubishi declared the Panamanian company, International Engines, its representative in Cuba. This company has been operating in the Cuban automobile market for more than 10 years.

This is conceived as a short-term investment with an immediate impact on the Cuban tourism sector, although the Japanese managers have expressed interest in extending their investments into other economic areas, and have confirmed their confidence in Cuban economic growth. The Cuban party said that this investment implies the first economic rapprochement between Japan and Cuba.

Considers Establishing Dealership

FL0404224894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] (Martin Roddin), representative of the Japanese Mitsubishi Automobile Corporation, has said in Havana that Mitsubishi is studying the possibility of establishing a dealership office in Cuba to sell vehicles and spare parts, in addition to offering maintenance services.

According to (Roddin), the Japanese company intends to sell a line of vehicles for tourism and rental service, as well as trucks for the sugar industry. (Roddin) ruled out an immediate decision on this project, however, because these are medium- and long-term prospects.

Today, a Japanese company delegation began a series of consultations with Cuban economic circles to evaluate the project. Mitsubishi is the tenth-largest automobile industry in the world, manufacturing a total of 2 million units annually.

Irish Legislative Delegation Arrives in Havana

FL0404122194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] (Joe Jacob), vice president of the Irish House of Representatives, has arrived in Havana at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. (Jacob) is heading a delegation of three deputies, two senators, and a secretary. They were received at the Havana airport by Anicio Leon, president of the Cuban-Irish friendship group.

In his welcoming words, Leon explained to the Irish congressmen the Cuban situation, the role of ANPP, and other aspects of our current situation.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY reported that the Irish deputies and senators expressed great interest in the development of Cuban public health, agriculture, and especially sports, in which area they aspire to expand the cooperation that began a few years ago.

Official Blames Power Outages on Breakdowns

PA0404235694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 94

[From the "Evening Information News"]

[Text] Since last weekend, electricity generation in Cuba has been seriously hampered because of breakdowns in thermoelectric plants located in various provinces of the nation. The demand for this service is much greater than the generating capacity, and therefore power outages of

8-10 hours daily are currently scheduled for the population. Originally, a lack of fuel forced thermoelectric plants to operate at lower capacity, and now, on top of this, is the problem of equipment breakdowns.

In a conversation with Jorge Carballo, the power supply chief at the Electrical Union of the Ministry of Basic Industry, the following was explained:

[Begin Carballo recording] We are experiencing very difficult times. On some days, we have no problems with the petroleum supply, but then on other days we lack petroleum, and then on other days it is the [words indistinct]. I can tell you that the current problem is not a lack of petroleum, but there will be a cutback in services because of breakdowns. There will be longer-than-normal power outages of 8-10 hours. Nevertheless, I hope that during the early hours of the day we will be able to [words indistinct], and that during the early hours we will not have power outages. [end recording]

A lack of spare parts for electric power plants together with the years the equipment has been operating and the continuous forced shutdowns have all affected electricity production.

[Begin Carballo recording] The trouble is that we are working without any spare parts. Can you imagine? If you have a thermoelectric system working at full capacity when the (words indistinct] fails you have a power outage. If you have a thermoelectric system working above capacity, when one of the [word indistinct] fails, what you do is turn on the [words indistinct], but service is not halted.

This is the accumulation of many small problems. It is the fuel problem, the quality of the fuel, the lack of maintenance, and the continuous shutdowns because of the lack of fuel. Some equipment is designed to be shut down and started up again, but other equipment is not designed for this. Some equipment is designed to run 24 hours a day. In terms of the equipment designed to work 24 hours a day, if you shut it down, start it up again, and shut it down again, little by little the equipment will eventually wear out. [end recording]

Economic Efficiency Assemblies Result of Parliaments

FL0404152394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 4 April 94

[Text] An editorial in today's newspaper TRABAJADORES states: All the activities of the labor union movement converge in the struggle for efficiency. The traditional Assemblies of Production and Services will be replaced by a new type of meeting that will have the same sincere, critical, and self-analytical spirit established in the workers parliaments and will be called Assemblies for Economic Efficiency.

TRABAJADORES underscores that an immediate task for labor union organizations is the implementation of plans and measures and the solutions suggested by workers during the workers parliaments. Economically feasible criteria and suggestions should be grouped according to each level of labor union organization to unleash the consequent action by enterprises, branches, sectors, provinces, and organizations, so that everyone knows his specific responsibility.

In many work centers where concrete measures have been implemented, absenteeism has begun to decrease, interest in production has been reanimated, and workers make an effort to cut costs.

The Assemblies for Economic Efficiency, which will be held periodically, will follow up on the ideas and suggestions of the workers parliaments. The editorial goes on to say: We must maintain a constant teaching and learning presence at the centers and each contact must leave an impression on the workers. The parliaments taught us that the prestige of representing the class that governs the country is maximized through the active efforts of the labor union leader, wherever he may be, through effective communication with workers, and through the use of vivid language that conveys information, concepts, and ideas.

Roundup of Economic Activity

FL0404232494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 30 March and 4 April.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 30 March reports that solidarity groups from Ukraine are shipping 400 tons of milk to Cuba as a token of appreciation for the treatment provided to the Ukrainian children affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

Radio Reloj at 1506 GMT on 30 March reports that the vessel (Wals Wabi) owned by (Grupo Uno) is unloading 15,650 tons of bulk wheat in the Port of Havana. The ship, which is returning from a four-month journey, visited ports in Suriname, Brazil, France, and England where wheat was loaded. The ship has seven holds for freight.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 30 March reports that in Matanzas, milk production has increased, while the death rate for cattle has dropped considerably, compared to the same quarter of 1993. This report was released by Jorge Pena, a local Agriculture Ministry official. Pena said that milk production for the first quarter of 1994 increased by 1.5 million liters in comparison to the same period in 1993.

Radio Rebelde at 1255 GMT on 31 March reports that the supply of recycled paper and cardboard to Havana City Province's main paper and cardboard recycling center has decreased by approximately 70 percent and that Cuba is buying old paper abroad in order to produce

various types of containers, like egg cartons and ice cream cups. A recycling official stated the center is now recycling one ton a month, as opposed to the three tons per month it formerly recycled.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 31 March reports that six provinces—with Havana Province in first place—had fulfilled, as of 30 March, the sugarcane planting schedule that covers the period up to 31 March. Cuba attained 90 percent of this quarter's goal, planting 2,811 caballerias, a figure that may increase once the final calculations and adjustments are made.

Radio Reloj at 2030 GMT on 1 April reports that seven platoons from the Espana Republicana sugar agroindustrial complex in the municipality of Perico, Matanzas, have cut 1 million arrobas of sugarcane this harvest. Two of these platoons have already cut 2 million arrobas and are striving to attain the third million.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 2 April reports that after 10 years of inactivity, the Patricio Lumumba plant in Minas de Matahambre, Pinar del Rio Province, has resumed producing sulfuric acid. The director of the (Sulfo-Metales) enterprise said resuming production will help save the nation $69 per ton of sulfuric acid currently being imported. This plant is expected to produce some 35,000 tons of sulfuric acid yearly, in addition to byproducts.

Radio Reloj at 1501 GMT on 2 April reports that Jose Luis Arias Munoz, a Spanish communist residing in Switzerland, has made a personal donation of medicines worth $4,000 to the Centro Habana Pediatric and Teaching Hospital. This is Arias' third trip to Cuba and his second donation.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 2 April reports that a physical rehabilitation facility at the General Calixto Garcia Teaching Hospital has undergone a $50,000 renovation and that a new endoscopic, minimal-trauma surgery unit will be inaugurated soon.

Radio Rebelde Network at 1700 GMT on 4 April reports that the Spanish Ibero-Star company, which participates in the joint administration of the Tripton and Neptuno Hotels in Havana, has announced that these hotels will be refurbished to enhance service and attract more tourists, thus obtaining more currency. The general manager of these hotels said that rooms will be enlarged and all bathrooms and furniture replaced or renovated. We have also decided to build a larger kitchen here at the Neptuno to offer full pension service to clients, he said. Together with our Cuban partners, we hope to find, either in Mallorca or in Cuba itself, a discotheque expert because we are interested in establishing a discotheque in the Tripton Hotel.

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities

FL0404232394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 28 March and 4 April.

Ulises Rosales del Toro and Candido Palmero Hernandez observed a potato-digging contest conducted by the Agricultural and Livestock Workers Union in Havana Province. The contest took place at the Niceto Perez Cooperative with 33 two-man teams from various Basic Cooperative Production Units. The most outstanding harvester teams received incentives and prizes. A total of 1,625 bags of potatoes were harvested during the contest. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision 0100 GMT 28 Mar)

Maria de los Angeles Garcia and Concepcion Campa on 28 March presided over the fourth plenum of the national committee of the national secretariat of the Science Workers Union. Delegations from all provinces attended the plenum. (Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 28 Mar)

Maria de los Angeles Garcia addressed the fourth plenum of the national committee of the Science Workers Union on 28 March and said science must help reduce costs, improve quality, and show the population that resources are being used as reasonably and efficiently as possible. (Radio Progreso 1200 GMT 29 Mar)

Esteban Lazo Hernandez attended the opening session of the third conference on participatory democracy, held in Santiago de Cuba. (Radio Reloj 0000 GMT 30 Mar]

Julian Rizo attended an assessment meeting in Camaguey where he praised the efforts of Camaguey workers and expressed confidence that they would meet their goals. (Radio Rebelde 1000 GMT 31 Mar]

Pedro Ross Leal opened the national Cuban Workers Federation seminar on organizational issues, which is under way in Havana and scheduled to last through 3 April. (Radio Reloj 2059 GMT 31 Mar)

Concepcion Campa, Rosa Elena Simeon, and Juan Contino attended the ceremony marking the beginning of the "Abril con Vida" ("A Lively April") round of activities in Havana sponsored by the Union of Young Communists. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision 0100 GMT 1 Apr)

Abel Prieto, Maria de los Angeles Garcia, and Minister of Culture Armando Hart Davalos attended the ceremony marking Cuban Book Day, at which outstanding writers were honored. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision 0100 GMT 1 Apr)

Jorge Lezcano Perez attended the provincial plenum of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana City. The plenum discussed ways to increase low-cost housing production. Each municipality presented its results for 1993. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision 0100 GMT 2 Apr)

Candido Palmero has rewarded the Jesus Menendez Brigade of the 17 de Mayo Agricultural Production Cooperative in Quivican, Havana Province, for being the first to manually cut 1 million arrobas of cane in this

territory. These cutters managed to reach this objective in 68 days, seven days ahead of schedule. (Radio Reloj 1930 GMT 4 Apr)

Pedro Ross Leal said workers will be mobilized toward priority tasks throughout April and May and that 1 May celebrations have not been suspended in Cuba, but will be multiplied by the diversity of the established tasks and celebrations. The international labor day will be held in workplaces throughout the country and in localities considered in a position to do so, such as the principal municipalities of Pinar del Rio and Matanzas, and in some municipalities in Havana Province. (Radio Reloj 1930 GMT 4 Apr)

Today, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government and a Politburo member, is visiting Granma Province, together with other members of the ANPP committees, in preparation for the rendering of accounts that this province will make at the next regular session of the ANPP. (Cuba Vision Network 2220 GMT 4 Apr)

Haiti

Parties Await Legislative Response to 'Ultimatum'

FL0404213994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The week began with a new initiative by the political parties to unblock the crisis situation, notably an ultimatum that is scheduled to expire at the beginning of this week.

Last week, Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress; Hubert de Ronceray's Mobilization For National Development; the National Conference; and the Congress of Haitian People for National Rescue submitted a joint resolution demanding a solution to the political crisis. The leaders of these political parties suggested the definitive closing of the file on negotiating the return of President Aristide, the restoration of state authority, the priority of a national constitutional solution, the formation of an ad hoc government capable of managing the embargo and executing a precise political agenda, and finally, the organization of general elections.

The promoters of this resolution assert they have received a very large consensus on this proposal, a copy of which was sent to the Army General Staff, the Chamber of Deputies, as well as organizations and institutions from civilian society. In this resolution, an ultimatum was given to parliament. Parliament should come to a decision on the situation no later than this week.

Senators Urged To Return to Sessions

FL0404213494 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Senator Firmin Jean-Louis expects normal activities in the Senate to resume beginning Monday [4 April]. Firmin Jean-Louis has invited the regular senators to return to the sessions to make a decision on the parliamentary plan.

Commission Report on Cite Soleil Violations

FL0504002394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The Justice and Peace Archdiocesan Commission in Port-au-Prince has published an overwhelming report on repression in Haiti, entitled "The Cry of the Executed People of Cite Soleil." [passage omitted]

Since the coup d'etat, Cite Soleil has been turned into a true refugee camp. About five Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress [FRAPH] offices keep the population in anguish and fear: one is located in Projet Drouillard and is headed by a man named Herve Black. Four other offices are located near the former Babeth Cinema and is headed by Gabriel Saint-Lot; on the wharf; in Soleil 4; and in Soleil 17. These offices make arrests, imprisonments, tortures, executions, and openly act in collusion with and under the protection of the Army.

In only two days, seven bodies were found in the area. On 16 March, three bodies were found in Soleil 17; and on 17 March, four bodies were discovered in Cite Belacour and Cite Lumiere. The Sarthes slaughter, which occurred on the night of 2 February, resulted in 12 deaths, one person missing, and one wounded. The missing persons are Jean-Pierre and Toussaint. Survivors from this same group of youths are still being pursued by the Army and FRAPH members. On 9 March in Soleil 9, Clotaire Francois, 23, was murdered with cold steel. Witnesses identified, among the attackers, a FRAPH member, Reverend Hubert, who leads a church in Soleil 17. The attackers heavily pressured the victims, who revealed the whereabouts of three other youths.

Finally, the Commission established a more or less final assessment of victims from that horrible day, 27 December 1993, when 37 people died, 23 disappeared, and 10 were wounded and [word indistinct] were recorded.

Conference Denounces International Community

FL0404224794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Committee for Research and Communication of the Haitian Religious Conference, CHR, published an Easter reflection in which it criticizes the attitude of the international community toward the Haitian crisis. The increase in crime and repression in Haiti coincides with the so-called parliamentary plan supported by the U.S. Administration, writes CHR.

After reading recent news releases by the UN/OAS civilian mission on increased violence in Haiti, the Haitian Religious Conference asserts that hands washed in vain by U.S. Administration authorities, and all those who together with them plan for the death of innocent people, are stained by their victims' blood. The Haitian Religious Conference especially denounces the contradictions and disparities between the international community's words and deeds in Haiti's case.

Security Team Members Arrested in Colosio Slaying

PA0504015694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by Jaime Flores from Tijuana, Baja California; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast—live]

[Text] [Flores] I want to report that agents from the Attorney General's Office [PGR] sent to Tijuana have started to detain all of those who were part of Luis Donaldo Colosio's security team for the 23 March event. Roberto Cardenas Sanchez was detained at his business this morning. At about 1230, he entered the PGR building in Tijuana.

His wife has gone to see Ramon Del Cid Valenzuela, commander of the Federal Judicial Police [PJF] in Ensenada, to intercede on his behalf. She says her husband had nothing to do with the 23 March events. She said they arrived at his place of business early this morning and that her husband was detained by PGR agents who took him to the PGR offices in Tijuana. It was learned that five other people also were arrested today by PJF agents for their alleged involvement in the Colosio case.

It has been learned that one of the arrested men is (Humberto Sanoja Morrel), a former state traffic and transportation official in the (Xicoten Catleiva) government. Many of the family members who are outside the PGR offices refuse to talk to the press. It also has been learned that Miguel Angel Suarez was removed from the State Judicial Police. His name also appears on the list of people responsible for security at the 23 March event. There are reports that Miguel Angel Suarez was drunk when he was arrested, and, at the time of his arrest, he allegedly was in possession of cocaine. Another man arrested is Genaro Valle. Valle was head of the Playas de Tijuana delegation. Two U.S. citizens accused him of extortion. In other words, arrests are continuing in Tijuana. All of these arrests are connected with the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio in Lomas Taurinas.

[Station announcer at Radio ACIR's Mexico City studios] Thank you for your report.

[Flores] Good evening.

[Station announcer] That is what is happening with the current investigations into Colosio's assassination. There are also rumors that some federal agencies are conducting unofficial parallel investigations into this matter—parallel to the official investigations being conducted by the special assistant prosecutor appointed by the president of the republic. These parallel inquiries are reportedly being conducted at the request and suggestion of Luis Donaldo Colosio's widow Diana Laura Riojas.

If this is confirmed, it would be a serious matter. Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo has been quoted as saying that only one investigation will be conducted. Nevertheless, it has been learned that some federal agencies, unidentified federal agencies, have their own people in Tijuana investigating the matter because their superiors want to have first-hand information of what is going on. If this is true, they are violating the pact to find the truth, a pact requested by the president of the republic himself.

Deputy Attorney General Reports 'Plot'

PA0504023694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Deputy Attorney General Miguel Montes Garcia, the special assistant prosecutor in charge of investigating the murder of Revolutionary Institutional Party [PRI] presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, has charged that several individuals acting according to plan took part in the crime. In other words, a plot existed and the individuals conspired with one another.

In a news release, Montes says that, according to investigations, Mario Aburto Martinez, Tranquilino Sanchez Venegas, and Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela—the latter is a former Judicial Police member—may have acted in concert. Montes also mentioned in the news release the simultaneous participation of Rodolfo Mayoral Esker, Rodolfo Rivapalacio, and two other people who have been identified visually but whose names and whereabouts are still unknown. Montes says the investigation could later be expanded to include a larger number of people. Here is the complete message that Montes read for the media this morning:

[Begin Montes recording] Ladies and gentlemen, as was reported in a release issued by this office on 31 March, we have found new evidence leading to several important details related to the Colosio assassination.

1. Several individuals participated in concert with the intention of killing Colosio.

2. So far, the simultaneous participation of the following individuals can be mentioned, although this does not rule out the possibility that the investigation might be expanded to include a larger number of people some time in the future: Mario Aburto Martinez, assassin; Tranquilino Sanchez, who watched General Delmiro Garcia Reyes, who was in charge of security at the outer perimeter, thereby making it possible for Aburto to approach and walk up beside Colosio; Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, who pushed back the crowd making a path for the individual I will mention next; one participant, visually identified but whose name and whereabouts are unknown, who stood in front of Colosio and then threw himself to the ground with the purpose of blocking Colosio's movements and permitting Aburto to put himself in a position to fire on Colosio; one participant, identified visually, a man who was wearing glasses, but whose name and whereabouts are unknown, who blocked other people's movements until he positioned himself on the candidate's left side, crouching moments

before Aburto fired; Rodolfo Mayoral, son of Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, who pushed and blocked Colonel Federico Antonio Reynaldo del Pozo, the man in charge of security at the inner perimeter, diverting the colonel's attention and forcing him to relax his vigilance; Rodolfo Rivapalacio, who hired Sanchez, Mayoral Valenzuela, and Rodolfo Mayoral to be part of the group seemingly created to maintain order. This is according to the list of the members of the group. The last name on the list has been altered.

3. Similarly, it has been confirmed that, during the meeting and before the assassination, Sanchez and Rodolfo Mayoral stayed with Aburto and chatted with him in a clear demonstration they knew one another.

4. The facts, based mainly on video footage and pictures studied by the authorities, constitute firm evidence, reinforced by eyewitness testimony, that confirms the actions perpetrated by the accused and validate the origin and authenticity of the material analyzed. Other circumstances, which are part of the investigation and which also point unmistakably to a criminal conspiracy, are also being studied.

Sanchez, Mayoral Valenzuela, Mayoral Eskes, and Rivapalacio have been handed over to judicial authorities. [end recording]

Explosion Destroys Bank Branch in Monterrey

PA0404164494 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1554 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Telephone report by correspondent Homero Lopez Ortiz from Monterrey—live]

[Text] At 0900 this morning a strong explosion destroyed a branch of Banorte, located on Manuel L. Barragan and Tlalpan Avenues in the neighborhood of Valle de Anaguas in San Nicolas Uzgarte, a metropolitan municipality of Monterrey. So far, it has not been possible to determine the cause of the explosion. What was confirmed is that the building was totally destroyed after its personnel and some clients had already entered. The strong explosion also damaged some homes adjacent to the building. Some vehicles were also totally destroyed. Only license plates were left of some vehicles, which were left in pieces.

Red Cross units of San Nicolas Uzgarte Municipality, the Red Cross, the Green Cross, firefighters, and State Governor Socrates Rizo Garcia are at the scene of the tragedy. Also, Attorney General Benito Morales is there. State officials are trying to rescue the victims of the tragedy, which occurred at 0900 this morning in the Banorte branch, located on Manuel L. Barragan and Tlalpan Avenues in the neighborhood of Valle de Anaguas in San Nicolas Uzgarte in Nuevo Leon. So far it has been impossible to determine the number of victims. We know that there were some clients and personnel inside. The cause of the explosion is not known. For the time being, work is under way to rescue the victims of the Banorte explosion, which was totally destroyed by a strong explosion.

PRI Sources Say Zedillo Embraces Reform

PA0504031694 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 4 Apr 94 pp 1, 5

[Report by Joaquin Alvarez]

[Text] The reform of the power structure and the strengthening of the federal system, which will give the nation a "new and equitable political balance," are irreversible pledges that Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon will champion and strengthen, according to the National Executive Council of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]. Meanwhile, former PRI President Pedro Ojeda Paullada defended the substitute presidential candidate's political experience and role as activist, stating "he is certainly no newcomer."

During an interview yesterday, Ojeda Paullada advised Zedillo to increase his public consultations and to discuss the party's basic political proposals in an effort to place his personal stamp on the presidential campaign. He referred to the PRI's political situation and said Fernando Ortiz Arana's timely refusal to accept the party's nomination prevented an internal split.

Meanwhile, Ernesto Zedillo's campaign team said that over the weekend the presidential candidate studied the political strategies he will implement in the next few months, adding, "they will be consistent with the democratic principles of Luis Donaldo Colosio and the party." A source within the campaign coordination team said Zedillo will design his own political philosophy and that it will be consistent with the statements, pledges, and thesis he defended when he was in charge of the Programming and Budget Secretariat, which no longer exists, and the Public Education Secretariat. The source said: "Zedillo is well aware of the nation's problems. Let us not forget he was directly involved in the state reform strategy and policy, one of the current administration's leading achievements."

Pedro Ojeda Paullada, former president of the PRI's National Executive Council, said the candidates' nomination to the post of assembly member, deputy, and senator will entail some modifications within the party, but he denied that these include changes in the PRI's national leadership. He also said there is no statute that prevents national leader Fernando Ortiz Arana from being nominated to the post of senator and remaining in charge of the organization.

At about 2100 last night—the eve of the formal start of the campaign, which promises numerous political activities in Mexico City—a group of community leaders and land holders from Magdalena Contreras and Santa Ursula personally delivered a list of proposals to resolve land ownership problems to Zedillo. Raymundo Munoz Ocadiz, adviser to the group, said Zedillo agreed to

contact Manuel Jimenez Guzman, PRI leader in Mexico City, and that the two may discuss the group's problems with Federal District Mayor Manuel Aguilera Gomez and Agrarian Reform Secretary Victor Cervera Pacheco.

According to Ocadiz's version, Zedillo "promised to defend and protect Los Dinamos ecological reserve in Magdalena Contreras." The meeting between the community leaders, the land holders, and Zedillo was held at his private residence in Cruz Verde 172, Lomas Quebradas neighborhood, southern Mexico City.

Sources within the PRI's National Executive Council consulted yesterday said Luis Donaldo Colosio's public pledges to reform power and to strengthen the federal system as well as to bolster the autonomy of the municipalities will be endorsed and championed by Ernesto Zedillo, who will even "strengthen" these pledges. "PRI members will fulfill all of the pledges assumed by the man who was our candidate," the sources confirmed. One source recalled that the issues of a new balance between the Union's branches—reform, particularly within the judicial branch, and the strengthening of the federal system—remain firm.

At the same time, Pedro Ojeda Paullada, currently a federal deputy, openly defended Zedillo's political experience; his role as an activist; and his well-known "capability, skill, knowledge, intelligence, and sensibility" to lead the country should he win the election. Asked about the criticism surrounding Colosio Murrieta's substitute, Ojeda Paullada adamantly said: "He is certainly no newcomer. Quite the contrary, he is knowledgeable about the party because he participated in Carlos Salinas' campaign. At that time, he was programming and budget secretary, and, until recently, he was public education secretary. These secretariats gave him an ample vision of the country and its current reality."

Referring to the PRI's internal situation he said: The fact that Fernando Ortiz Arana did not vie for the post (the presidency) shows there is no division because this would have engendered another position, and, at this time, I only see one—one that supports Zedillo Ponce de Leon's candidacy.

Meanwhile, Miguel Angel Barberena, leader of the National Front of Organizations and Citizens, said Zedillo's candidacy restores confidence because it endorses the late Luis Donaldo Colosio's ideology and goals. He said there is unity within the PRI and its members are advancing united toward an election victory in August.

Bank of Mexico Assumes Control of Loan Activities

PA0404202294 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] As of today, the Bank of Mexico [Banxico] will have independent control of internal loan activities to ensure stability for the nation's currency. Miguel Mancera Aguayo also becomes the bank's first governor. So begins a new phase for Banxico as an autonomous organization, within an atmosphere of stability in the area of monetary policy, guarantees in the fight against inflation, and the highest figure in international reserves the country has ever seen. This means the central financial institution will have independent control over domestic credit and no government agency will have the authority to order it to adjudicate funds to any other. This will ensure the stability of the national currency's buying power.

Miguel Mancera Aguayo will head the organization as its first governor. He was a key figure in restricting the Mexican economy. He had the ability to remain calm even in the most difficult of times.

[Begin Mancera recording] The Board of Governors must administrate Banxico's credit portfolio to attain stability in the national currency's buying power [end recording]

Mancera Aguayo is the author of the consumer price stability plan, which served as the basic economic policy strategy. He was tasked with lowering the inflation rate from 160 percent in 1987 to annual figures under zero [as heard] and monthly figures of only four-tenths of a percent. Banxico's independence is another reason for the local and international financial community to feel confident. It confirms the continuity and honesty of the current economic plans.

Miguel Mancera Aguayo will hold the post of bank governor for three years and nine months. Different from the past, Mancera will not be alone at the head of Banxico because he will have four assistant governors to fill out the Board of Directors.

Costa Rica

Security Minister Plays Down U.S. Drug Report

PA0504033094 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0206 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] San Jose, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today, Costa Rican Security Minister Luis Fishman played down a U.S. State Department report that "money laundering" and drug trafficking and consumption are on the rise in Costa Rica. Fishman said the report admits that "there is virtually no corruption" in Costa Rica's police force, which is prevented from taking more effective action against drug trafficking because of a lack of financial resources. "I am proud because they say there is no corruption," the minister told ACAN-EFE, saying that contrary to what Washington says, Costa Rica has dealt "harsh blows" to drug traffickers in recent years despite the limited resources. Fishman said he "disagrees" with the assertion that Costa Rican policemen are unprofessional. He said that Puerto Limon on the Atlantic coast is a problem area and added that many resources have been allocated to fight drug trafficking and consumption.

The State Department's annual report, released today, highlighted the progress made by Central American governments, with the exception of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, in the fight against drug trafficking and money laundering. The report says the "laundering of drug money" is particularly serious in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua, but virtually nonexistent in El Salvador.

The State Department praised Guatemala the most for its cooperation with Washington in several campaigns to eradicate cocaine and opium and to arrest drug traffickers. According to the State Department, meager resources and a lack of professionalism among security services preclude significant progress in the counternarcotics struggle in Costa Rica. The report says Puerto Limon has become the main point of contact between the Colombian island of San Andres, the Nicaraguan coast on the Caribbean, and the United States. At the same time, however, the report said there is virtually no corruption.

El Salvador

'Expert' Says U.S. Embassy Involved in Drug Network

PA0504044194 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Report by Edwin Gongora; from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Drug expert Carlos Aviles reported that U.S. Embassy personnel are involved in a drug network in El Salvador. Aviles added that the incident which resulted in the death of Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Rivera can only be explained by his emotional state as Rivera's autopsy revealed that he had used a considerable amount of marijuana and meta-amphetamines. The drug expert said meta-amphetamines are only produced in the United States; thus the officer had brought it into the country and committed a serious crime by doing so.

[Begin Aviles recording] How does this make the U.S. Army and Government look? How do they look when one of their soldiers brings meta-amphetamines from the United States to our country? Drug consumption-....[pauses] Marijuana is a drug that Rivera could have bought here or in Guatemala, but it is still a very serious crime. This shows that our government must take a stronger stand and demand that foreign personnel in our country meet some basic requirements. [end recording]

Aviles thinks our nation is not respected because we do not require U.S. military delegation members to pass drug tests.

[Begin Aviles recording] I have said this for several months. I have said that we must more strict. Nationalism is not something found only in songs. It requires us to ensure that our Constitution and laws are respected. Unfortunately, nobody has paid any attention to me. Today, sadly we see how another scandal has erupted that has shown not only that the officer used marijuana and meta-amphetamines but that meta-amphetamines are powerful, synthetic stimulants that make cocaine look like breath mints. [end recoding]

According to Aviles, U.S. diplomats should practice what they preach in U.S. counternarcotics efforts because this is not the first time U.S. Embassy personnel have been involved in drug-related incidents.

Autopsy Shows Traces of Drugs in Dead U.S. Soldier

PA0504042394 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] An autopsy has revealed that the U.S. military man who died while playing with a hand grenade had taken three types of drugs. Dr. Juan Mateo Llort, director of the Forensic Medicine Institute, has confirmed that a toxicological examination on the body of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Julio Ramon Rivera, who died early Sunday, reveals he was under the influence of three illegal drugs when he pulled the pin on the grenade that killed him and wounded four other people. Based on this conclusion, Dr. Llort will ask the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador to perform drug tests on all Embassy officials. Dr. Llort said Rivera died from multiple trauma caused by the explosion of the grenade, which he handled recklessly.

[Begin Llort recording] Only a person under the influence of drugs would have played with a live grenade, thinking it was a toy. The three drugs found were 25

nanograms of marijuana, 276 nanograms of metaamphetamine, and 440 nanograms of phenobarbital—a considerable quantity. [end recording]

The official U.S. Embassy report says Lt. Col. Rivera had gone to the National Civilian Police in the Zacamil neighborhood to meet his bodyguards who were being released.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] He was meeting some of his bodyguards. That is when he received the grenade, which exploded.

[Dr. Llort] Routine toxicological tests should be performed on these kinds of people, who should be setting an example for the rest of the country. [end recording]

Lt. Col. Rivera was second in command of the U.S. military advisers who have been in the country for the past two years. His body was flown in a C-130 plane to Puerto Rico, where he resided.

TSE Magistrates on Plans for Runoff Election

PA0404220694 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Report by Boris Zelara; from the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] magistrates have confirmed that the call for the presidential runoff election will officially be announced on Tuesday. According to Rutilio Aguilera, no challenge has been received so far against the final vote tally. If this holds true until the official deadline expires on Monday, it will allow the TSE to announce the official call on Tuesday. Aguilera noted that the four principal shortcomings detected in the 20 March elections will be averted in the runoff because corrective measures have been taken.

[Begin Aguilera recording, in progress] ...fortunately there has not been any challenges, and also because of the delay with which the political institutes, via their representatives, are conducting them. As for your question, we have clearly seen that as of last Wednesday—the date the final vote tally document was signed—political groups were given 72 hours to submit requests to nullify the results. Because no such request has been presented, as I noted earlier, the TSE will have 48 hours to issue the decree after the deadline expires. The TSE will first confirm the results. Second, it will issue the decree calling for a runoff election. [end recording]

For his part, Eduardo Colindres, the Christian Democratic Party's TSE magistrate, noted that the organization has initiated a campaign to urge citizens to notify the TSE of any problems encountered in their electoral districts or any problems with their electoral identification cards. He also said plans are being made to prepare identification and electoral identification cards.

[Begin Colindres recording, in progress] ...the preparation of the citizens' identification and electoral identification cards. In other words, these new documents will replace the electoral identification cards and the people's personal identification cards. We have implemented an information campaign to advise citizens where they can vote and how to vote in an effort to avert problems that occurred in San Salvador. We will conduct an orientation and information campaign on how and where to vote. [end recording]

The call for the presidential runoff election will be made officially on Tuesday, provided the departmental electoral boards in San Salvador and Cuscatlan turn in the consolidated results of the 20 March elections for deputies in accordance with the electoral code.

Guatemala

State Council Not To Declare 'State of Exception'

PA0404223294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2043 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government announced today that civil rights will not be suspended in the nation despite the instability created by the weekend assassination of Constitutionality Court President Epaminondas Gonzalez. In a State Council meeting held today, President Ramiro de Leon Carpio and his ministers decided not to declare a state of exception [estado de excepcion] and to continue to monitor the situation in upcoming working sessions, according to government spokesman Felix Loarca.

After the assassination of Gonzalez, 62, some sectors had asked that civil rights be suspended because of a prevailing climate of violence. Human rights organizations, however, rejected a possible suspension of rights, arguing that such a suspension would pave the way for repression. In addition, the Army said it would support the measure if it was approved by the executive.

[In related news, Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish at 1900 GMT on 4 April, in its "Telepress" newscast, broadcasts a one-minute recorded interview with Government Minister Danilo Pariello, who was interviewed on his way to the State Council meeting called to discuss the possible suspension of rights in Guatemala. Noting that the session was called "to assess the serious situation caused by the Constitutionality Court president's death," Pariello adds that "pertinent measures have already been taken." Asked whether a "state of exception" will indeed be declared, he says this "will have to be decided at the cabinet meeting." He notes that any state of exception that might be declared would be "one of prevention, and one which could be declared immediately."]

Spokesman: No Decision Adopted on Exceptional Measures

PA0504010094 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 94

[From the "News Patrol" newscast]

[Text] The possibility of establishing a state of exceptional measures in Guatemala to halt the nationwide wave of crime, violence, and terrorism continues to be a topic of discussion between the president and his ministers, but, for the time being, such a decision has not been adopted, according to Felix Loarca Guzman, public relations secretary of the Presidency.

The nation's situation will continue to be studied at future cabinet meetings, but, for the time being, this measure is on hold. Although the death of Constitutionality Court President Epaminondas Gonzalez Dubon was one of the arguments used to raise the possibility of resorting to such a measure, the discussion at today's cabinet meeting centered on the search for those responsible for the crime. The government spokesman said security personnel are working hard on the investigation.

Meanwhile, it has been learned in legislative circles that Congress, through a resolution, might recommend that the executive branch decree a state of exceptional measures. At this time, opinions are divided among legislators about whether a state of exceptional measures should be established to control the extreme violence in the country. Deputy Obdulio Chinchilla Vega has said the government of Ramiro de Leon Carpio should immediately establish a state of exceptional measures. Congress President Vinicio Villar, however, does not agree that the executive branch should adopt such a measure.

Honduras

Reina Prepares To Announce Economic Measures

PA0404221794 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 4 April 94 p 2

[Excerpt] Over the 1 April weekend, President Carlos Roberto Reina announced that the economic cabinet will announce this week the nine measures to be implemented by the current administration. Although he did not specify what type of measures his economic cabinet will announce, Reina reiterated that the measures are necessary "and will be disclosed this week."

Regarding the last increase in fuel prices, Reina said: "We are doing the best we can within our means. We cannot avoid certain adverse situations, but everything will be done to increase social spending." He added, "The people have given me their trust, and I ask them to continue to do so."

Meanwhile, Reina recalled that the increases are not the only measures that require unselfishness. He stressed, "unselfishness is also fighting corruption of all types, and this is what we are doing; unselfishness is telling the people the truth and meeting all challenges courageously."

Regarding the substantial increase in the price of kerosene for home use, Reina noted that the product had been subsidized, "and if you want the real price, you will see it is still higher than the fixed price." He argued, "I have tried to prevent this as much as I could. Nevertheless, the government must continue with its plan; otherwise, we will return to the high levels of corruption that prevailed in this country in the past."

Huge Debt of the Wealthy

Referring to the economic crisis the country is facing, Reina pointed out that the government's plan is to increase social spending to ease the population's hardships. He said, "Our goal is to increase social spending to as much as 35 percent of the national budget." Nevertheless, he said it is first necessary to correct situations like the one detected in the National Enterprise for Electric Power, where the government discovered that "wealthy people" owe some 190 million lempiras.

Reina went on to explain: "It is wealthy people, not poor people. How can we allow this to continue? There are situations the government will explain.... These are extremely dramatic aspects of recent circumstances."

Asked if he was bowing to pressure from international financial institutions [IFI's], he answered, "I will never bow to the dictates of the IFI's." He argued, "I have the highest opinion of the mandate, but we have inherited a very difficult situation that must be faced with honesty."

Tragedy in Mexico

Regarding the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio, presidential candidate of the Mexican Institutional Revolutionary Party, Reina said it would be a tragedy to return to a time of assassinations and security threats to political figures. He said he hopes the Mexican people will recover from the shock of the incident, "and that this barbaric conduct will never again be emulated in Honduras." Reina believes this tragic incident in Mexico will not have repercussions in the Central American countries. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

FSLN Platform, Popular Support Viewed

94CA0088B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Mar 94 p 11

[Commentary by Fernando Cardenal]

[Text] In 1996, a large number of political parties will be presented to the Nicaraguan people. Will there be 15 or 20? We do not yet know.

The vast majority of the people who will consider these various political parties are unemployed and barely surviving; the majority are exploited day laborers or street vendors, and all of them are not just kept on the sidelines of human existence, but are actually excluded from it.

For the first time in Nicaragua's history, a party emerged whose fundamental objective was to make a radical change in that situation with the appearance of the Front. In the 1969 Proclamation of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), Carlos Fonseca wrote: "We intend to travel the difficult path of the combatants who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of freeing the oppressed and exploited, the abused and humiliated."

And in the oath that the militants took at the end of "Zero Hour" (late 1969), they pledged to struggle for "national honor and the redemption of the oppressed and exploited people of Nicaragua."

The subsequent history of the FSLN is drenched in the blood of thousands and thousands of Sandinists who gave their lives to honor this oath. Once we were in power, we made many different mistakes, but never at any time did we lose sight of our fundamental objective: the redemption of the oppressed.

Paradox in the Front

I sincerely believe that the FSLN is the only political party with the desire and the capacity, once it is in power, to build a society that is increasingly free of exploitation and social injustice.

But there is a great paradox that is now becoming the principal challenge to the Front. On the one hand, we have the FSLN that is always committed in principle to the cause of the oppressed and exploited; however (and here lies the painful paradox), the majority of the oppressed and exploited do not support the FSLN. Seventy-seven percent of Nicaraguans do not now regard it as their party, according to the latest polls. What is happening to us? How can we understand and resolve this contradiction?

It is imperative that we resolve it, because the party must win the 1996 elections. As the opposition we cannot change the political, economic, and social structures to benefit the majorities who are excluded from all material prosperity.

To win the elections, it is of vital importance that, with our work, attitudes, behavior, and our entire way of life, we send a signal to those majorities. Platforms and political programs are not enough, though they are very important, and indeed necessary.

Sending Clear Signals

To resolve the above-mentioned paradox and win over the masses in Nicaragua, we must send them signals on a variety of subjects. Today I will focus primarily on two of them.

a) With a renewed leadership, we must send clear signals of our sincere defense of popular causes; support for the masses' struggles; maintain a clear and constant opposition to the government' neoliberal economic measures; and lead our lives in a way that proves we are still loyal to our oaths and our historic commitment to the oppressed and exploited.

b) With a renewed leadership, we must send clear signals that we are still true to the ethical values that are part of the historic tradition of our best cadres: honor, solidarity, sincerity, respect for Sandinists who do not share our ideas, using reason rather than insults to seek consensus and unity, managing the party's assets in a respectful and open way, and leading an austere life that brings us closer to the suffering people who are dying of poverty.

And finally, I also believe that we must, with our attitudes and our entire way of life, send clear signals that we do not represent the threat that war and death, commercial blockades, barriers to internal trade, etc., will return to our soil. Because of our mistakes—and above all because of the adversary's propaganda—we have an image that must be erased from the minds of our people if we are to win the 1996 elections.

FSLN Atlantic Coast Loss Analyzed

94CA0088A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Feb 94 p 14

[Commentary by Adolfo Miranda Saenz]

[Text] No one got an absolute majority in the Atlantic Coast elections, but given the conditions, regardless of the number of votes garnered by each candidate, the percentages indicate that the big winner was the Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC), and the big loser was the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The Sandinists, having accumulated vast resources during the years when they were in power, were unable to put in a strong showing against the PLC, which was transformed from a small party to a big adversary. It joined the fray on its own and bravely fought to win a decent percentage, which is an undeniable victory.

The FSLN may try to minimize the failure it suffered, winning such a small percentage in spite of all its power and resources. But the fact remains that in comparison to the votes it garnered, the PLC's percentage—won without joining the parties that make up the National Opposition Union (UNO) or any other liberal parties—suggests that if the liberals were to lead a democratic alliance, they could defeat the FSLN in 1996.

The FSLN has been unable to recover from its electoral defeat of 25 February 1990 because it has been unable to correct its mistakes. Its two main factions have said that they recognize their errors, but no faction has come out and identified by name those who committed abuses under Laws 85, 86, and 88. Nor is there any talk of returning the ill-gotten gains, expelling corrupt members, or fixing the blame for the government's leading us into a chaos from which we have not yet emerged.

In other words, they have limited themselves to expressing repentance, but only in words...while the fact is that they left our country in ruins, with 50,000 dead, widows, orphans, blind people, amputees, etc., plus the tragic fact that we have regressed three decades in history, becoming the most backward and impoverished country in the Americas.

On the Atlantic Coast, in contrast, people know that in Managua a man accused of being a fascist, ultrarightist, radical, mean, corrupt, and the embodiment of Somozism, as mayor has carried out more development projects and accomplished more for the people than the Sandinists and the current government combined.

That is to say that everything the Sandinists and the officials of the current government have said against Arnoldo Aleman is nothing but words, in contrast to a man who has responded with deeds. This situation leads me to the conclusion that since Arnoldo Aleman poses a real political threat to them, they have tried to push him out of the race by portraying him as the most terrible thing on earth in order to discredit him.

But that tactic has not yielded any results, although I confess that I, like others, believed them for a while. The tactic of tarring a candidate as a Somozist to oust him from the political arena did not work in 1990, but they did not learn their lesson. The percentages obtained by the PLC in the Atlantic Coast elections show that our people are not swayed by mere words; they know how to evaluate deeds.

A mayor who can show visible accomplishments that cannot be hidden or denied deserves respect. He has been able to revitalize liberalism in a country where, not too long ago, admitting to being a liberal was tantamount to pleading guilty to a crime before the accusing finger of the "immaculate" Sandinists, who have been very good at accusing and maligning others, but incapable of being honestly and clearly critical of their own corruption, beyond superficial and ambiguous words.

That is why the people held them accountable in the 1990 elections, and have just done so again in the 1994 elections on the Atlantic Coast, even though they are celebrating their "triumph" (?). The votes won by the PLC, added to those cast for other non-Sandinist political groups, confirm that the FSLN is a losing party whose image of failure will be difficult to shed between now and 1996.

We liberals—all liberals—must acknowledge this triumph by Dr. Arnoldo Aleman and the PLC, and must close ranks to form a unified movement. This great effort by the PLC deserves our support. Those Nicaraguans who do not want a return to Somozism or the continuation of Sandinism in power should close ranks and not fall into the trap of diluting our strength or discrediting the mayor of Managua, blindly accepting the accusation that he is a "Somozist," a well-worn ruse often employed by the Sandinists.

The results of the Atlantic Coast elections, with the undeniable liberal triumph of the PLC, should cause us to stop and reflect and rethink our political strategy. The FSLN's emphatic denunciation of Arnoldo Aleman should not prevent us from supporting the PLC and the mayor of Managua. The FSLN has Dr. Arnoldo Aleman and the PLC in its sights because it knows that this force can defeat it at the head of a democratic alliance.

Those of us who, without being Sandinist militants, at one time supported the FSLN, without asking or getting anything in return because we were doing it for Nicaragua's sake, have the most right to demand redress for the harm they did and the deception they perpetrated. We also have the right to demand that they drop their aggressive and derogatory remarks about other politicians whom they accuse of corruption, because those "corrupt" people have shown by their deeds—not their words—that they are better than the Sandinists. As the old saying goes, people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Panama

Mayin Correa Banned From Public Office for 1 Year

PA0404155994 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1443 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Telephone report by correspondent Mara Rivera, from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal Office in Panama City, with Julio Miller, Panama City Circuito RPC Television news director, in the studio—live]

[Text] [Rivera] Good morning, dear listeners. A few moments ago a ruling was handed down in the case of [former Panama City Mayor] Mayin Correa, condemning Mrs. Correa. The sentence handed down is 187 days in prison and the suspension of citizen's rights, disqualifying her from holding public office for one year. It is noted that, according to Article 82 of the penal code, the prison sentence handed down can be converted into a 60-day fine, considering the salary she received at the time the crime was committed. That is, she must pay a fine equivalent to 60 days, in accordance with the salary she received while she was mayor.

She is disqualified from holding public office. The other people involved in this case, Mr. Juan Domingo Diaz, Alexis Morales, and Enrique Delgado Bolanos also

received rulings. Juan Domingo Diaz and Alexis Morales were acquitted. Mr. Enrique Delgado Bolanos was sentenced to two months in prison, which can also be converted to the payment of a fine.

We learned here at the Electoral Tribunal that Mrs. Correa can run as candidate for the post of mayor. She cannot, however, assume the post—should she be elected with the necessary votes. In this case, the post would have to be filled by her alternate, her first alternate. I do not know if Mr. Miller has anything else.

[Miller] Yes, Mara. Let us repeat the sentence handed down. Also, can she fill the post, after she serves the sentence handed down? Go ahead.

[Rivera] The ruling condemns her. The sentence condemns her. She is sentenced to 187 days, which can be converted to a 60-day fine. Then there is the sentence suspending her citizen's rights and disqualifying her from holding a public post for one year. After serving the sentence for one year, she can fill the post. In other words, if she is elected, she can fill the post of mayor after one year. In the meantime, her alternate would have to be in charge.

[Miller] What other alternative does she have, following the sentence handed down by the tribunal, Mara?

[Rivera] We were told she can submit an appeal. Nothing has been established yet because the sentence was just handed down. We understand her attorneys will immediately file an appeal with the tribunal.

[Miller] Thank you, Mara, for this last-minute report.

Argentina

Twelve Hurt, 6 Arrested in Jujuy Demonstrations

PY0504025194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0058 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpts] San Salvador de Jujuy, 4 April (NA)—The demonstration by Jujuy's Public Workers Union Front (FGE) [Frente de Gremios Estatales] that was convened for today to protest the veto by the executive branch of a salary increase approved by Congress left 12 people injured, six of them policemen. The police arrested six individuals.

The public workers protest ended, just as did last week's demonstrations, in serious clashes that included attacks with rocks, the throwing of tear gas, and rubber bullets.

The incidents were not circumscribed to Plaza Belgrano, located in front of the legislature, and where the marchers concentrated, but extended to other neighborhoods and to the bus terminal. Here there was another clash between police and workers, who burned and destroyed a police station.

In the morning Governor Carlos Ficoseco released a decree vetoing the salary increase approved by Congress. This was the cause of the protest. The governor presented an alternative bill granting salary increases to public workers. [passage omitted]

Jujuy police were reinforced with National Border Police and Salta Police agents to prevent possible incidents such as the one that occurred on 29 March.

Governor Carlos Ficoseco began his speech at the legislature shortly before 1830, while outside the number of protesters convened by the FGE increased.

Ficoseco's speech was scheduled to start at 1700 but started one and a half hours later. Meanwhile, police and public workers clashed outside.

A group of demonstrators tried to enter the Congress building, which had strong police protection, but were repelled by police with tear gas and rubber bullets and forced to withdraw by some 200 meters.

The anger of the demonstrators, and the unrelenting police persecution, forced workers to seek refuge at the local bus terminal, where they burned and completely destroyed the police station located in that area. [passage omitted]

Cuban Foreign Minister on Menem-Castro Phone Call

PY0404153694 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 2 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by Marcelo Izquierdo from Havana]

[Text] President Carlos Menem "several days ago" telephoned Fidel Castro. The conversation was unrestrained and served to resolve some pending problems that opened the doors for the visit Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina will make to Buenos Aires on 13 April.

"The telephone conversation took place," Robaina confirmed for PAGINA/12 in a brief chat on Juventud Island, located in western Cuba.

[Izquierdo] But who took the initiative?

[Robaina] Well, an incoming call was received some days ago. That means it came from over there, because that is the only way an incoming call can be received.

Robaina, 38, smiles about his remark while he is surrounded by some 50 foreign diplomats accredited to Havana during a visit to the archipelago's largest island.

"There was no need to use the language used in the past, because the topics that were discussed did not need the type of language that was used before the microphones," he said. Despite the official secrecy regarding the topic, it has been learned from diplomatic sources that the conversation lasted for some minutes.

The sources stated that Menem presumably showed interest in medical treatment for the son of his cousin, Alfredo Menem, who is currently recovering in Cuba from a physical illness, but this could not be confirmed. Castro was presumably willing; thus the dialogue was held on a cordial basis and helped reduce the tense relations, according to the sources.

In the same natural way that he dances a salsa at a diplomatic corps party, or when he makes a present of a caricature of an ambassador to the ambassador himself, Robaina agreed to chat with PAGINA/12.

[Izquierdo] Menem will receive you on the day of your arrival in Buenos Aires. How will you handle the interview with a president who openly declares himself to be "anti-Castro."

[Robaina] The exists a bilateral relationship that comes above any type of declaration. This is something my government has decided to work on, and I do not believe Argentina will be an exception. We are in a position to speak openly when a disagreement crops up.

[Izquierdo] Up to what point have bilateral relations been affected by Menem's continuous attacks against Fidel Castro?

[Robaina] Our relations are not difficult. The insistence (Menem's attacks) is something that only he can comment on. It also would be important if there could be time for us to explain what we are doing in Cuba.

[Izquierdo] The objective of your visit?

[Robaina] Argentina is not an exception among the other countries of the world. We seek to speak the truth about our program with its virtues and defects.

[Izquierdo] Is there any progress in the renegotiation of the more than $1 billion debt Cuba has with Argentina?

[Robaina] It was I who began the negotiations, and it will not be myself who will conclude them. We are taking steps to see how we can move that debt. We have no capital but there are other possibilities.

[Izquierdo] What possibilities?

[Robaina] We must see what interest there is in Cuban products, and we also must see whether some investments can be made in order to pay part of the debt.

The Cuban foreign minister will arrive in Buenos Aires from Peru on 13 April, and on the same day he will be received by Menem at Government House, according to Argentine Ambassador to Cuba Susana Grane.

"There is nothing to prevent an improvement in Argentine-Cuban relations. For this to happen, I have confidence in the rationality, intelligence, and good sense of the Argentines." Thus the Cuban foreign minister concluded his chat with PAGINA/12.

Robaina will remain in Argentina on 13 and 14 April, but he will return on 17 April for a short visit to Posadas, Misiones Province, after his semi-official visit to Paraguay.

Menem on Conversation

PY0404173694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1518 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (NA)—President Carlos Menem today denied that his chat with Cuban chief of state Fidel Castro was reconciliatory, and he indicated that he had called Castro to recommend a nephew who had traveled to Havana because of health problems.

The Argentine president indicated that when he called his Cuban colleague, "Castro was about to make a toast with some Menem wine" that he himself had sent Castro.

Menem also indicated that he had taken advantage of the contact "to again thank him for the attention he gave a dear friend, (Cesar) Chacho Jaroslavsky, and to recommend a nephew who also had traveled to Cuba due to health reasons."

In remarks to Radio 990, Menem emphasized: "This was all we chatted about," and he said: "Our disagreements within the sphere of democracy and freedom will again be made known during the Cartagena de Indias summit above and beyond these aspects."

Foreign Ministry Denies Seeing Malvinas Report

PY0504020394 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Apr 94 pp 10-11

[Text] The Argentine Foreign Ministry yesterday said that it was not aware of the existence of a report written by a commission created by the Defense Ministry to investigate reports on war crimes in the Malvinas Islands. CLARIN's exclusive publication of the report appeared in yesterday's edition.

Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella revealed that the Foreign Ministry is not officially aware of the report mentioned by CLARIN, adding almost with resignation that "it would eventually become aware of it."

The publication of the Defense Ministry report is a hurdle in the path of the policy of seduction being implemented by the Foreign Ministry to strengthen diplomatic and trade relations with the United Kingdom.

In this particular case we must add the cyclical pushing and pulling between foreign and defense officials on issues like the Malvinas or the UN peace missions.

The report publishes, for the first time, the full names of Argentine soldiers who were wounded and are registered as executed. According to the investigation, at least nine Argentine soldiers in the Malvinas Islands died at the hands of British soldiers in a way that clearly violates Geneva Convention articles on treatment of war prisoners.

Petrella yesterday said that if the existence of the report is confirmed—the Defense Ministry did not deny it—it should be submitted to the British Government "as a matter of principle" in order to check whether "parts of it have not already been covered by the British investigators."

The deputy foreign minister was referring to a Scotland Yard investigation team that collected information from Mount Longdon battle survivors in London and Buenos Aires. It was reported that the British police had concluded that in the Malvinas Islands "there were assassinations, but not executions."

The investigation started following the publication in 1991 of a book by former British Corporal Vincent Bramley entitled "Excursion to Hell." In the book Bramley described how the British military executed an Argentine soldier who had been taken prisoner following the bloody battle of Mount Longdon.

Bramley yesterday told Radio del Plata that "the only case of execution I know about is the one involving the soldier I mentioned in my book." Bramley expressed hopes that the two countries' governments "will sit down and work together in order to clarify this matter for good."

"The British Government ordered an investigation. The Foreign Ministry asked British investigators to visit Buenos Aires to collect the evidence available here. The team of investigators stayed in Buenos Aires for 20 days. They talked with veterans and then issued a report to the crown prosecutor, who must decide what to do with the report," the deputy foreign minister said.

The serious facts unveiled by the investigation presided over by military vicar Norberto Martina places the government in the predicament of having to decide whether to denounce the war crimes committed by British soldiers before international organizations.

Officials responsible for designing the government's foreign policy know well that if they go to a international court with documents proving that British soldiers were involved in attempted homicide, homicide, dangerous handling of prisoners, use of forbidden weapons, and execution of soldiers wounded during combat in the Malvinas Islands, they will have no choice but to throw away the policy of slow rapprochement with the United Kingdom that the Foreign Ministry has been implementing ever since Carlos Menem became president.

President Views Future, Ties With UK

PM0504090894 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 5 Apr 94 p 10

[Report on interview with President Carlos Menem by Andrew Graham-Yooll in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] President Carlos Menem of Argentina is a gambling man. He enjoys the image, and he is unabashedly delighted when he wins. On Sunday he will be playing for his future.

A parliamentary election will decide his proposals for constitutional reform that would enable him to stand for re-election.

The man who has transformed Argentina from a country prone to military coups and inflation that reached 20,000 per cent into what investment fund managers call the boom region of the 1990s, is confident of victory.

"The people want stability, and I give them that," he said in an interview at the presidential palace, the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires.

His government, which has brought inflation down to 10 per cent since he took office in July 1989, is renowned, however, for condoning widespread corruption, an accusation he brushes aside.

He has also given Argentina's stuffy officialdom a sense of humour. He has made Argentinians laugh at themselves by laughing at himself. "Sense of humour? Some of us have it. Churchill could laugh at himself," he says.

For laughs, he has played basketball with the Globe Trotters, football against Diego Maradona and tennis against Gabriela Sabatini.

At 64, his pursuit of youth, fitness and personal grooming are approached like a national emergency. His hairdresser and tennis coach have priority on all presidential travel.

He appears terrified of ageing, anxious to show that he is still young and able to govern.

"The man is without shame," a cabinet minister's wife remarked. She said Senor Menem was not troubled by mistakes and was not affected by adverse comment.

He loves good suits, fast cars and blondes, which he explains away as due to his Arab ancestry. He is first generation Argentinian. His father emigrated from Yabrud in Syria.

Asked about allegations that his infidelity drove his former wife, Zulema, out of the presidential home, and has been the subject of scandal, Senor Menem replied: "I am not a philanderer, I'm a seducer."

When he took office in 1989 he promised to end corruption, but the privatisation programme that has pumped money into the economy has also produced personal fortunes overnight, and with no questions asked.

He said: "There is a problem. But no worse than it ever was. You hear about some things now because there is absolute freedom of speech. Under previous regimes (the military) you were killed if you breathed a word."

The wave of corruption has touched the President. He has sacked relatives of his ex-wife from government jobs, when their get-rich-quick deals became scandalous. One relative organised an Argentine passport for Monzer al-Kassar, an arms dealer under arrest in Spain.

Amira Yoma, Senor Menem's sister-in-law, has been charged with laundering drug money. She was accused of organising her own sting against Colombian drug barons, and presidential aides had to dissuade a hit squad sent to kill her.

The election takes place as the fourth Argentine-British Conference, held every two years to build bilateral understanding, ends in the Andean province of Mendoza.

British politicians and businessmen, led by Viscount Montgomery, are in Argentina this week to discuss trade and build bridges broken by the Falklands conflict, which started 12 years ago this month.

It was Senor Menem, in search of trade with Britain and Europe, who made the first move towards restoring diplomatic relations within weeks of entering office.

"I don't know why Britain wants those islands. Really, I ask you?"

His ambition, which he sees as natural after restoration of diplomatic relations, is to be officially invited to Britain.

"They don't want to invite me," he laughed, "which in the present circumstances between our two countries is not easy to understand. In fact, the two countries that haven't invited me are the UK and Syria."

Since Britain and Argentina renewed links under Senor Menem, bilateral trade has grown.

British Gas landed a share in a four-way contract with America to build a gas supply pipeline from Argentina to Chile.

Senor Menem was born in 1930 in La Rioja, one of Argentina's poorest provinces, and he joined the followers of the late Juan Peron in the mid-1950s, just after the general had been overthrown in a military coup.

But whereas Peron nationalised the mostly-British utilities in 1947, Senor Menem, within days of reaching office, announced mass privatisation.

He ordered the sale of all viable state enterprises and the closure of others, leaving himself open to charges that his policies were Thatcherite.

But he sees no conflict with his youthful Peronism. "There is no contradiction. General Peron would eventually have had the same policy.

"He had started calling for international investors into oil exploration when he was overthrown in 1955. They (the coup leaders) did not let him do what needed to be done."

He said he was confident that the public would continue to support his privatisation and stabilisation policies.

The election has to give him enough members in the chamber of deputies and the senate to be able to vote for a constituent assembly that will amend the constitution to allow Senor Menem to seek re-election in 1995.

Senor Menem also plans to abolish the condition that a president must be Catholic (Senor Menem was a Muslim but converted).

He is said to have told his aides, when he was running for his first six-year term: "I'm not coming in for six years and then going home. I am going to stay."

Then he softened the statement, saying: "We Arabs live a hundred years." Now he is in a hurry to secure a second term, as he feels time is running out.

In spite of his confidence, he is afraid of the ravages of time.

According to Gabriela Cerruti, the author of *El Jefe* (The Chief), he has succeeded against most challenges.

"For 20 years he invented the date of his birth to claim a youth that was unavoidably deserting him." she said. "He is horrified by the fact that his power cannot stop the clock."

Bolivia

Minister Sees 'Positive Aspects' in U.S. Report

PY0404203194 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The current Bolivian Administration blames the previous administration for the negative report issued by the U.S. Government on the results of drug enforcement efforts in Bolivia. Our reporter Mario Espinoza has some information:

[Begin recording] [Espinoza] The executive branch believes the negative U.S. Government report on drug enforcement in Bolivia focuses on the first part of 1993. Social Communications Minister Ernesto Machicado has said the report contains positive aspects. He added that, during its 1993 electoral campaign, Bolivia indisputably failed to fulfill its commitments to the U.S. Government.

[Machicado] I would like to underscore three aspects. First, the United States will continue to cooperate with Bolivia—be it in drug enforcement or in any other area where cooperation exists. Everything will remain the same, there will be no change.

Second, the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia states that coca eradication was delayed entirely due to the administration of former President Jaime Paz Zamora, especially during the electoral campaign. Before the 1993 elections, the former Patriotic Accord administration decided to stop coca eradication efforts in the Chapare region basically for political and electoral reasons.

The third aspect is that the U.S. report clearly acknowledges the efforts of the current administration which has led to the arrest of several drug bosses and the breaking up of large drug rings. [end recording]

President Says Apr 'Key Month' for Economy

PY0404153494 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Report by Edwin Mayon from Cochabamba]

[Text] Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada on 3 April went to Sipesipe, a provincial village, where he attended Easter Mass. The president was very happy and in good spirits. Speaking to the local press, the president said that this will be a key month because the Popular Participation Bill, the educational reform bill, and the national budget will be approved here. He announced that workers will not receive any more salary increases. The president encouraged leaders of civic committees and municipal authorities to resort to dialogue.

[Begin recording] [Lozada] We hope that civic committee leaders will participate in a dialogue with the government because this month we have to approve the Popular Participation Bill and the national budget to allow the economy to operate according to [words indistinct] so that municipalities can start getting funds as of May and improve the standards of living of the people in their counties. The Popular Participation Bill is intended to benefit all the provinces of Bolivia. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Brazil

Numbers Game Kingpins Reportedly Funded Elections

PY0504033094 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Apr 94 p 9

[Article by Renato Garcia]

[Text] On 30 March, Secret Service agents of the Military Police [PM] and attorneys found computer diskettes with a list of names of politicians, policemen, and media professionals next to the amounts of money they allegedly received from numbers game kingpins. The diskettes were found at the headquarters of numbers game kingpin Castor de Andrade, in a huge old house at 1040 Fonseca Street in Bangu District. Vice Governor Nilo Batista opens the list of politicians who allegedly received financial help from the numbers game kingpins during the 1990 electoral campaign. Also on the list are Jose Vicente, Bocaiuva Cunha (deceased), Jamil Haddad, Simao Sessim, Messias Moraes, Cidinha Campos, Marcio Braga, Sergio Cinelli, Leoncio Vasconcelos, Aguinaldo Timoteo, and Ludmila Mayrink, among others. According to files found in Castor de Andrade's computers, they all received financial help during the 1990 campaign.

District Attorney Antonio Carlos Biscaia said: It is well known that the numbers game kingpins have blocs in the city council, in the legislative assembly, and at the Chamber of Deputies.

According to Biscaia, bribes from the numbers game kingpins do not follow any political ideology: Leftist, center, and rightist congressmen resorted to these irregular funds to finance their campaigns. Biscaia reported that the list contained the names of politicians from all parties except the Workers Party, PT. As the lists contained in the diskettes are made known, however, new names will be added to the current ones.

The files also show that these illegal funds were effectively used to pay for the maintenance of police cars, repair work at the police precincts, and payment for "bonuses" to policemen. According to the documents, police inspectors, PM colonels, and almost all leaders of the Civil Police have received these funds. The names of reporter Nelio Bilat and sports commentator Washington Rodrigues, in addition to the names of the Tupi and Manchete radio stations, are mentioned in the documents. They also reveal the amounts distributed among all the special police precincts, police barracks, and district police precincts. Also recorded on the documents are the payment of extra bonuses, donations to philanthropic institutions and to the Confraria do Garoto, as well as the overall amount collected in numbers game bets and expenses.

The dismantling of the illegal game network and the raiding of its headquarters became possible with the November arrest of Castor de Andrade's son-in-law, Fernando Ignacio de Miranda. Miranda was caught red-handed trying to bribe Police Inspector Mario Covas, director of the DGPI [expansion unknown]. In a parallel investigation, and based on charges made by X-9 [expansion unknown], Ivan Custodio de Lima (main witness of the Vigario Geral massacre), the PM agents, and attorneys arrived at the bunker without knowing what to expect. To their surprise they found what they believe to be the much sought after evidence of the involvement of politicians, policemen, and journalists in the numbers racket.

Cardoso on Economic Plan, Possible Alliances

PY0404233894 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Apr 94 Section 1 p 5

[Interview with former Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso by FOLHA's special correspondent Susi Aissa at his Corrego da Ponte ranch in Burity, Minas Gerais State, on 1 April]

[Text] [Aissa] Do you have a government plan?

[Cardoso] I will not think about that until late April. Our program is the economic plan that we will support to the end.

[Aissa] When will the people start to feel its effects?

[Cardoso] The economy will be stabilized by the second half of the year. I have no doubt about that. Things have already markedly changed.

[Aissa] Will you interfere with the implementation of the economic plan?

[Cardoso] I will not interfere, but I will support it publicly. This I will do.

[Aissa] Will you maintain contacts with the economic team?

[Cardoso] I will maintain frequent contact with the new minister, at his request.

[Aissa] Some people contend that this is rather unethical, since you are a presidential candidate.

[Cardoso] That is an insincere remark. Everyone knows it is my plan, that I made it. I will continue to comment on it. Yet, I no longer assume responsibility for any actions taken in this respect. I will, however, assume responsibility for supporting it.

[Aissa] Will you seek alliances with the PFL [Liberal Front Party] and the PPR [Progressive Renewal Party]?

[Cardoso] The PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] is taking care of that. Why would one seek alliances? To win. In our electoral system, which envisages a run-off election, everyone seeks alliances. It will not be the party leaderships that will decide this, but individual voters who move from one candidate to another. One party only needs to hold negotiations with

another that is different from it. If both parties are equal, there is no need for negotiations. For instance, the PT [Workers Party] is seeking an alliance with the PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil], a truly obsolete party that still advocates a dictatorship. Why is the PT doing this? Because it needs votes.

[Aissa] Would you accept alliances with the PPR, or with the PFL?

[Cardoso] I would accept alliances with them, with the PDT [Democratic Labor Party], the PP [Popular Party], or the PT. I would accept an alliance with the PT. It could happen that neither I nor Lula [PT leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva] qualify for the run-off election.

[Aissa] Would PSDB voters agree to your sharing a platform with [Bahia Governor] Antonio Carlos Magalhaes?

[Cardoso] I have already shared a platform with Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, and with Tancredo Neves, Lula, and many others. To focus on that is to overlook the real issues. What are the real issues? One's government program, who the trustworthy people are, and with whom one is going to rule. I would be very happy if the PT decides to enter into an alliance to support me. I have my background, my history. No one could say I am a rightist because I am not.

[Aissa] Who will finance your campaign?

[Cardoso] I still do not know. The subject is still being discussed.

[Aissa] Would you accept a contribution from Odebrecht [construction company]?

[Cardoso] Yes. As long as everything is done properly.

Telecommunication Cooperation With PRC Viewed

PY0504013794 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 30 Mar 94 p 13

[Article by Heloisa Magalhaes from Buenos Aires]

[Text] The Chinese telephone network grew by 51 percent in 1993 with the installation of 5.83 million phones, a little less than the total number of lines Brazil had in 1992. This is the largest, most booming market in the world in this field. In face of this market force, the Chinese Communications Ministry has sent a strong message regarding deregulation policy to the representatives of the International Telecommunications Union which is sponsoring its first meeting aimed at developing countries.

Zhu Gaofeng, Chinese vice minister of Posts and Telecommunications, will visit Brasilia on 4 April. He said: "It is not possible to follow only one development model in the field of telecommunications; there is not one model that can be adapted for all countries. Developing countries have become the greatest market in this field, which is why international financial institutions cannot establish short-term conditions. Partnerships with countries that need a lot of investment must follow a model of equal and mutual benefit."

He is negotiating with the Brazilian Government the first stage toward a possible "joint venture" [preceding two words in English] in the field of telecommunications and postal services. Based on a scientific and technological cooperation agreement signed between the two governments in Beijing in 1993, the partnership foresees the integration of private companies like Promon Telecommunications, Darum, and Ericsson.

These cooperation agreements will benefit:

The postal system: through development of a new postal policy, organization of the postal network, administration of services, marketing, courier, payment orders, and manufacture of new equipment.

The telecommunications system: through a new policy for voice and data transmission services, rural communication using satellites, point-to-point and mobile systems; through fiber optics; through administration and planning of telephone networks and value-added services.

The agreement also contemplates the joint development of telecommunications equipment.

Miner Reportedly Shot by Venezuelan Patrol

PY0404125494 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Venezuelan National Guard killed a Brazilian miner in the village of Parima, in the country's Amazon region.

According to official reports, the Brazilian miner—who was known as Franco—shot at a Venezuelan patrol when the patrol found an illegal camp in Parima, which served as a base for gold and diamond mining.

Brazilians Antonio Edilmar Ribeiro and Cicero Eduardo Britto were arrested and are being held in Puerto Ayacucho, the capital of the Amazon province.

Chile

Arms Trader Cardoen Refuses Extradition to U.S.

PY0504025394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2336 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Santiago, 4 Apr (EFE)—Chilean businessman Carlos Cardoen, who made a fortune in arms sales to Iraq and is now facing possible extradition to U.S. justice, will not voluntarily go to that country, his lawyer Nurieldin Hermosilla said.

Hermosilla's comments were published by LA SEGUNDA today. Hermosilla explained that Cardoen will not appear before a Miami court "because in the United States there is no certainty as to when he would be tried. He could be in prison for years before the trial."

The lawyer said: "Cardoen did not commit any crime. That is known in detail by the prosecutors. They met with us in Jamaica, last year in April, and we held a long conversation."

Hermosilla recalled that his son, Juan Pablo Hermosilla, who is also a lawyer, is in the United States talking with Eduardo Palmer, one of the prosecutors in charge of this case, to gain some "advantage" for Cardoen, but he reiterated: "They know this is a lost case." [passage omitted]

RN To Propose Anti-Corruption Bill

PY0404173594 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Report by Claudio Pereda Madrid]

[Text] The National Renewal [RN] party will be submitting to the Chamber of Deputies a draft bill that strives to avoid corruption at the civil servant level. This draft bill includes legal measures not in current Chilean law, such as influence peddling.

The draft bill, which will be submitted in the next few days, also adds regulations to the law on bribery, expands measures regarding conflicts of interest, and adds measures on illegal exactions.

The measures proposed by RN, which were disclosed by RN President Andres Allamand during a news conference, intend to punish officials or civil servants who seek to obtain profit for themselves or third parties through the illegal use of secrets or privileged information through influence peddling. According to Andres Allamand, influence peddling is the most common form of corruption at the civil servant level but it goes unpunished in Chilean law:

[Begin Allamand recording] It must be noted that in the last 20 to 25 years, the majority of countries have held in-depth discussions to penalize influence peddling, which, I repeat, is not punished in Chile. [end recording]

The draft bill also intends to punish bribery, not only when the action takes place, but also when it is offered. The law currently establishes that bribery is a crime only when the illegal payment is made.

The draft bill also expands the list of people with whom government workers cannot negotiate, among whom are their business partners and direct relatives, such as spouses and direct ancestors or descendants. It also punishes public officials who are entitled to make any payments and who request a sum higher than what is established. The law currently punishes those who demand an additional payment but not when it is requested.

[Begin Allamand recording] Consequently, we are building [words indistinct] introducing in Chile the legal measure of influence peddling, which currently is not included in Chilean law. We are perfecting the law on bribery by establishing the punishment I mentioned before: when the public official either requests it or it is offered.

We also are expanding conflicts of interest and, last, we are perfecting the measures regarding illegal exactions. [end recording]

Finally, Andres Allamand explained that the draft bill is completed by measures expediting the defense of public officials unjustly charged with the crimes included in the draft bill.

Academics Discuss Defense Policy, Mirage Deal

PY0404153794 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Report by Mario Contreras]

[Text] For centuries there have been discussions over which is a better learning method: Is it that which goes from the general to the specific, that is, the deductive method; or that which goes from the specific to the general, the inductive method?

A few days ago a specific issue led to the discussion of a very important subject for Chile: the definition of a national defense policy.

During the academic meeting held last week at the University of Chile Political Sciences Institute to discuss the possible purchase of Mirage combat planes from Belgium, one of the participants stated—and the other agreed—that Chile lacks a defined national defense policy. He added that national objectives have not been established and that this is essential for a united community of interests that intends to stay united in the future.

A nation state is organized on the basis of a human group with homogeneous characteristics, having similar principles, values, and believes that will be projected into the future. Otherwise, there is no sense in having a true contract between the state and citizens with reciprocal duties and rights. Moreover, a political community is established to achieve these goals and to project them into the future.

One of the relevant issues on this subject is the establishment of a national defense policy. It can be said that the prevailing situation during the current times, the so-called age of post-modernism, is different and that the possibilities for armed conflicts have diminished. This may be so. In addition, it also can be alleged that the world powers are downsizing their armed forces. This is also true. Nevertheless, everyone is aware that international ties are measured by influence of power and in no other way. Moreover, only a few developed countries have implemented a downsizing of their armed forces.

Chile, which holds a privileged position in Latin American because of its economic process, has emerged with a flourishing economy and a stable political system. In general, this situation is usually accompanied by a well-structured dissuasive policy. To do this, it is necessary to start at the basic level, that is, to establish national objectives and on this basis design an overall national defense policy.

This issue, which was raised again last week at the University of Chile Political Sciences Institute, is a cause of concern for current defense officials.

Commentary on Carabineros Role in Triple Murder

PY0404215094 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The case of the three slain Communist leaders is reviewed in this Sunday's newspapers. Judge Canovas acted on firm evidence; he lived up to his reputation as a severe rural judge. He lived as one who has witnessed a horrendous nightmare, until he was defeated by a terrible death.

Nevertheless, Special Judge Milton Juica continued the task started by Canovas through confessions which went beyond the somber forebodings of the late solitary judge.

This is what Ascanio Cavallo writes in an article [in LA EPOCA] entitled: "The Doors of Hell":

Few people remember it now, but Carabineros General Rodolfo Stange tendered his resignation as Carabineros commander once before. It was on the afternoon of 1 April 1985, almost nine years ago, when it was reported that Judge Canovas Robles had just set bail for two Carabineros and indicted 14 others for their involvement, less than five months previously, in the abduction and killing of Communist Party leaders Manuel Guerrero, Santiago Natino, and Jose Manuel Parada.

After reviewing aspects of this case, and the many harassments of which [former Carabineros Commander] General Cesar Mendoza was not unaware, Ascanio Cavallo states:

Since then, Stange has done his best to improve the image of the Carabineros. He dissolved the Diconcar [expansion unknown], and little by little expelled Carabineros personnel who were involved in the DINA [National Intelligence Directorate], the CNI [National Intelligence Center], or in other similar organizations or had carried out similar duties. He cleaned up the generals corps, expedited the promotion process, and established an open-door policy to the public.

Stange ordered the Carabineros to maintain a prudent low-profile during the plebiscite. He showed a previously unsuspected ability for political maneuvering during the transition by accepting the court appointment proposed by Patricio Aylwin's Administration without yielding almost anything.

The case of the three Communist leaders was, however, hopeless. On 31 March, in his much-awaited first ruling, Special Judge Juica recommended that the military court indict Stange for serious nonfulfillment of military duties. This goes beyond the judicial measures that occurred as a result of Mendoza fall in 1985. Juica's ruling presupposes that the high command did not conduct the proper investigation and obstructed justice.

Ascanio Cavallo's article in LA EPOCA adds: At least the attitude of the Carabineros has changed throughout the process.

Canovas lived under surveillance and his credibility was subjected to continuous challenge while conducting the investigation. Many high-ranking officers systematically refused to accept that some of their men may have been involved in the homicide case, but tolerated the repeated lies from those responsible.

Only in 1992, when Juica's investigation had yielded the first irrefutable evidence, did one high-ranking officer, General Mario Morales, publicly express his shame. The admonitions to which he was subjected and the isolation he was forced to endure, compelled him to resign by the end of 1993.

Continuing its analysis on this case, the "Doors of Hells" adds: Subjected to these complex pressures, it has become difficult for Stange to exercise his command. Subtlety is not required to understand that the government wants Stange to resign. During a meeting that lasted more than two hours at President Frei's office on the afternoon of 31 March, the political team gave the Carabineros the long Easter weekend to decide. But the phrase urging Gen. Stange to conscientiously analyze the situation—which was included in the communique that ensued from this meeting—leaves virtually no room for doubt. It would be very difficult to find a case where the executive branch has appealed to the conscience of someone and have him remain in his post.

The defense used by the Carabineros high command on 1 April is more aimed at the groups that requested Stange's resignation than at the government's statement.

Nevertheless, the statement issued by the Carabineros high command could not have appeased the executive branch. The circumstances under which it was read—with all the Carabineros generals standing behind Carabineros Deputy Commander Fernando Cordero who read the statement—insinuated that the Carabineros would react as an institution, as they did in 1985 when the high command made it perfectly clear it could only be led by one of its own.

Therefore, the past few hours have served to establish if this statement has the approval of Gen. Stange, or if it is a noble but unrealistic gesture of solidarity.

The article ends by noting: The Carabineros high command believes charges of the involvement of its commander are partial and biased, but one cannot overlook

the fact that the main conclusion of these charges is based on an independent investigation conducted over nine years by two special judges.

Who is going to confirm if these are biased and partial opinions? The military courts, for example, may decide there is no merit in holding a trial after such a long period or in holding a trial in which the Carabineros may be interested parties.

Whether or not Stange remains in his post is not a judicial question; it is strictly a political case. It has nothing to do with his work in modernizing Carabineros. Stange has the last word and, until he utters it, it is easy to predict the prevailing atmosphere: Tense, very tense.

Colombia

Prosecutor Office Concerned Over U.S. 'Sanction'

PA0404184794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From "National Newscast"]

[Text] The Prosecutor General's Office is concerned. The United States is definitely not sending evidence on drug traffickers to Colombian authorities. Although there was no official announcement, the truth is that, in practice, the sanction is being applied. The Prosecutor General's Office has not received a single piece of evidence against Colombian drug traffickers from the United States for the past two months. The last evidence received was against Julio Fabio Dinol and Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela for drug trafficking.

According to Francisco Jose Cintura, the acting prosecutor, the refusal to send information on drug traffickers is worrisome because the evidence sent by the United States has been overwhelming and has served to convict 17 individuals.

[Begin Cintura recording] The cooperation of the U.S. Justice Department has been important in consolidating several cases, including those of the Ochoa brothers, Gonzalo Mejia Sanin, and 17 individuals whose extradition was pending when the National Constitutional Assembly banned extraditions. The U.S. Government should carefully examine the decision because such a negative decision can only benefit drug traffickers. [end recording]

Particularly in the cases against the Ochoa brothers, the United States sent accusations of cocaine trafficking and the testimony of U.S. drug traffickers who incriminated them. In addition, it sent recordings of telephone conversations intercepted by the DEA as evidence against certain Cali Cartel members.

Although there is concern over the announcement by DEA Investigations Director Robert Nieves to suspend the exchange of evidence to Colombia, the Prosecutor General's Office not only cooperates with the United States but also exchanges evidence with Russia, Italy, Mexico, and Peru.

Indians Threaten Rebels, Drug Traffickers

PA0404170894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From the "TV Today Newscast"]

[Text] The Motilones Indians are among the tribes that struggle the hardest to save their identity. The guerrilla movements have now surfaced as a formidable enemy. They say they are willing to fight the subversives. It took one whole day, traveling along dirt roads, canoeing along the Catatumbo river, and cutting through the jungle to get to the villages of the Caricacha Buquira tribe of the Motilones Bari Indians. Almost 300 Indians, whose ancestors go back some 500 years, base their economy on fishing, coffee, cocoa, yucca, and wild fruits.

"TV Today" came here after hearing about reports made by 16 Indian communities. The Motilones are angry with the guerrillas and the white settlers, who have moved onto their historically defined reservations.

[Begin unidentified Indian chief recording, in dialect fading to Spanish translation] The settlers have been growing coca. The processing waste flows into the river. The guerrillas have contaminated the river with oil, and there have been no fish in the river for the last few years. Fish are the basis of our diet. [end recording]

The Indians filed a complaint against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the Army of National Liberation. Although there have been no clashes up to now, the Motilones Bari Indians threatened to burn the coca plantations they find on their lands. There are almost 4,000 Indians living all over the Catatumbo region who would enforce this request by the Motilones if the government representatives do not offer any solutions to the problem.

Sanin Confirms 'Good Relations' With Cuba

PA0404134194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 4 Apr 94

[From the "TV Today Newscast"]

[Text] Guyanese President Cheddi Jagan arrived this afternoon on an official three-day visit. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin, who told the media that the reported presence of Bishop Nel Beltran in Cuba for an alleged guerrilla summit has not affected the good relations between Colombia and the island.

[Begin Sanin recording] I will meet with the prosecutor general to hear his final conclusions on this investigation. The Colombian Foreign Ministry always said it believed the bishop. We also said there were indications,

but there were no conclusions on the matter. Fortunately, we did not rush into this or jump to any conclusions. When you wanted us to make some sort of statement, we said we would not make any statements until Cuba responded. [end recording]

Fedesarrollo Views Interest Rate Proposal

94SM0280A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Mar 94 p 1B

[Text] Fedesarrollo [Higher Education and Development Foundation] has recommended that the government immediately cut public spending, keep interest rates at least at their current level, and place effective controls on the entry of foreign currency.

These suggestions were made in an editorial of COYUNTURA ECONOMICA, which will be in circulation within the next few days.

According to Fedesarrollo's director, Eduardo Lora, only if those three steps are taken will the government and the Bank of the Republic's board of directors be able to control inflation and avoid revaluation.

According to Fedesarrollo's analysis, even though the Colombian economy is behaving very positively, it is essential to introduce corrections in order to slow down the accelerated growth of demand and the entry of foreign currency.

Domestic demand for goods and services is growing at 11 percent, while it should not exceed 5 percent. That is, it should grow at the annual rate of the GDP [gross domestic product].

The foundation called Minister of Finance Rudolf Hommes' idea for lowering domestic interest rates in order to reduce the differential with international rates unworkable. "If that is done, it will trigger an acceleration of domestic demand, making inflation even harder to control," said Lora.

About a year ago Fedesarrollo had proposed reducing domestic interest rates, but Lora said the circumstances at that time were different, for then there was no excessive demand or much business activity.

"A decline in interest rates would accelerate demand and generate higher inflation. Actually, to reduce the amount of foreign currency entering Colombia by equalizing domestic and foreign interest rates, we would need to lower domestic rates by about 10 points, and that would be catastrophic in terms of controlling inflation," said Lora.

He added: "If anything should be done to interest rates, they should be raised, or at least kept at their current levels, but not lowered."

Even though Fedesarrollo recognizes the success of the government's handling of the economy, he cited the need to introduce tax controls on foreign credit to deter money laundering and slow down the massive influx of foreign currency.

The foundation did not propose specific controls, but suggested introducing a 48 percent cash reserves requirement for all foreign credit, not just for loans made for an 18-month term, as in the current procedure.

Credit Soaring

Fedesarrollo said private sector loans are now at levels of $200 million a month; until October 1993 the average was only $40 million a month.

Fedesarrollo also asked the government to make a new cut in public spending by at least the amount announced at the start of this year, equivalent to 360 billion pesos.

Fedesarrollo's director, Eduardo Lora, said that one cause of the inflation reported during February is that the government did not cut spending by the amount it had announced.

According to Fedesarrollo, the February acceleration of the cost of living was caused primarily by excess demand, not high food prices or educational costs.

"Putting price controls on foods is not a sound way to control inflation, for even though people may reduce their spending on food, it is quite certain that they will increase their purchases of other goods," said Lora.

Ecuador

Measures Adopted To Ensure Free Market System

PA0504045294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2107 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Quito, 4 Apr (EFE)—It was reported here today that the Ecuadoran Government has implemented measures to ensure and encourage a free market system and to increase production in the country's different industrial sectors. According to the new rules, investments in Ecuador's private sector will not require a patent, license, registration, permit, or certificate. Meanwhile, numerous decrees, laws, and administrative rules that had placed restrictions or limitations on industry and free trade were repealed.

The price of all local or imported goods, products, and services will be subject only to the free market laws without state controls, which means their prices will be established by the law of supply and demand, based on their quality and price. The new rules state that all products, goods, and livestock will be allowed free movement, transportation, and transit across the country without having to obtain a license or administrative authorization. Also, from now on, all Ecuadoran goods and products are exportable, with a few exceptions subject to quotas, restrictions, or limitations foreseen in the Law for Expediting Exports and Over Water Routes.

Peru

Daily Decries U.S. Support for Judiciary Report

PY0404185994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1946 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (EFE)—The Lima daily EXPRESO stated today that the U.S. State Department's support of a controversial report on the status of justice in Peru is political aggression by the latter country. The daily, which is believed to be pro-government, stated that "aside from the good or bad intentions" the U.S. Government may have, it has "clearly politically damaged" Peru by supporting the report, which harshly criticizes Peruvian justice.

The report, prepared by a group of legal experts presided over by Robert Goldman from the United States, states that the judicial reform the Peruvian Government has launched "severely undermined and, in some cases, eliminated judicial independence in Peru." The report also "suggested" that the Peruvian Government should annul the law that allows judges who try alleged terrorists to remain anonymous and substantially amend antiterrorist laws.

EXPRESO stated this evaluation of the situation "is unrealistic" because Peru is implementing an "in-depth reform of the judiciary that ranges from the appointment of honorable and knowledgeable justices by the Discipline Board for Magistrates, which has general approval, to the establishment of a managerial and modern approach to the institution and enactment of modern codes of procedure."

Shining Path Leader Guzman on Hunger Strike

PY0404211994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1811 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (EFE)—Abimael Guzman, founder and leader of the Maoist gang Shining Path [SL], has gone on an indefinite hunger strike in his cell at the Callao Naval Base in Lima. Carlos Gamero Quispe, one of the lawyers who are defending Guzman, told the Lima newspaper LA NACION that Guzman is striking for medical care. In the statement published by LA NACION on 3 April, Gamero said: "My defendant is seriously ill, and the military have refused permission for two Red Cross International doctors to visit him in prison and treat him for the various diseases he has."

For 10 years now, Abimael Guzman has had psoriasis, a skin disease that causes patches of skin to be covered by white scales. Guzman's health has been deteriorating lately because of an inflammation of the throat that prevents him from swallowing prison food, Gamero explained.

Carlos Rolando and Delia Carrasco, Abimael Guzman's father- and mother-in-law who live in Sweden, hired Gamero. The lawyer explained that his defendant has decided to go on an indefinite hunger strike to protest the Supreme Court of Military Justice's decision to not allow two International Red Cross doctors to visit him in prison.

"Guzman's psoriasis has worsened lately because of the humidity the pervades the premises of the Callao Naval Base, which is located on the La Punta peninsula just off Lima. The inflammation of Guzman's throat is also due to this humidity," Gamero explained. He added: "He is also suffering from the confinement he has to endure. All this has made him lose weight, to the point that he now looks like a human scarecrow."

The Fifth Criminal Court has ruled against the writ of amparo or plea of "habeas corpus" that Guzman's lawyer filed, asking that Guzman be allowed to receive "private medical care." The lawyer said: "Since the rulings prevent my defendant from receiving medical treatment, he has decided to go on an indefinite hunger strike to the bitter end, and it is obvious that whatever the outcome, the government will be to blame." The lawyer explained that he will go to the Supreme Court to appeal the ruling that prevents Guzman from receiving medical care "so that the highest court can decide on this matter."

On 29 March, the 25th Criminal Court of Lima reported that Guzman was in good health, and that Red Cross International doctors visited him regularly in prison. According to current Peruvian criminal laws, people sentenced to life for high treason, as in Guzman's case, can be visited by their relatives only once a month.

Abimael Guzman was arrested on 12 September 1992 in a housing development in Santiago Surco, a Lima neighborhood. Other key Shining Path leaders were also arrested on that occasion. On 7 October 1992, a Naval court judge sentenced Abimael Guzman to life imprisonment for high treason for the deaths of over 20,000 people during 10 years of terrorist actions, and for destroying state property worth more than $28 billion. The Supreme Court of Military Justice upheld the life sentence on 15 October 1992.

Economic Achievements of Past 2 Years Evaluated

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[Text] Lima, 4 Apr (EFE)—Two years after the 5 April 1992 coup of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, the economic isolation has been left behind and Peru has obtained $10.291 billion in foreign investment. The total direct investment for production over the last two years has reached $1.619 billion, while commitments for the short and medium term, through contracts with 14 foreign companies, have reached $6.75 billion.

During the same period, another $1.922 billion entered the Peruvian stock exchange, especially the Lima stock market, with investments involving 1,312 foreigners (768 Chileans, 338 Americans, and 84 British). Most of the investments were made through the sale of state companies and granting mining and oil concessions to

companies from Argentina, the United States, Spain, Canada, China, Chile, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and others.

Those with the greatest impact were the sale of the National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru and the Peruvian Telephone Company for $2.002 billion and the signing of a contract to put into operation the largest Peruvian natural gas deposit, Camisea, with the Anglo-Dutch Shell Company with an initial investment of $2 billion. According to experts, the great participation by investors is attributed to the incentives granted by Peruvian laws, which are considered by some people to be the most liberal in Latin America.

In the post-coup period, Peru was also able to return to the financial international community after reaching agreements with the IMF and the World Bank, although it has not yet been readmitted by the commercial banks. The IMF and the World Bank had virtually alienated Peru from their institutions since 1985 when then Peruvian President Alan Garcia unilaterally restricted the payment of the foreign debt. Talks with the Bank Committee of creditors began last year, but are at a standstill due to a lawsuit by the U.S. Chemical Bank for a debt of $72 million, which will apparently be resolved soon.

Peru needs to reach an agreement with the private banks, to which it owes about $6 billion, so as to allow alternate financial sources that would give greater impulse to the plans for modernizing its economy. A choice proposed by Peru is to sign an agreement based on the Brady Plan, by which it would pay $1 billion in exchange for being forgiven 50 percent of the debt, about $3 billion.

The economic and financial stability obtained by Peru is also based on the harsh blows dealt to the terrorist groups, mainly the Shining Path, which in 1992 was about to destabilize the Peruvian Government. The downfall of this gang began in September 1992 with the capture of its chief, Abimael Guzman, and it fell even further when he asked for a peace agreement. The Shining Path, although divided and weakened, is, however, still active, and every so often tries, each time with less force, to spread terror in an effort to scare away investors.

In the political field, the Fujimori government has become internationally legitimate after holding three elections which were endorsed by observers of the OAS and other organizations. The unanimous international repudiation of the "Fujimori coup" has also been left behind, and now Peru is normalizing its relations with the rest of the world.

The internal political opposition, however, has not forgiven Fujimori for the coup. It still accuses him of being a "dictator," and is trying to form a single front headed by former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to prevent his possible reelection in 1995. The preelectoral polls indicate that Perez de Cuellar is the favorite candidate for winning the elections next year, but Perez has not yet decided to run.

Some analysts believe Perez de Cuellar can guarantee the continuity of the economic model, but others, like former Economy Minister Carlos Bolona, fear that Perez, with the support of the left and the right, will be pressured by those sectors, and that his eventual government will be "unviable."